



ASMC Gulf Coast Chapter Newsletter

Spring
2021

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Chapter**
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Mandy Chapman

President's Corner

Written by Mandy Chapman, Tenants Vice President

ASMC Gulf Coast Members,

It has been my privilege to serve as the 2020-2021 Tenant Vice President for our Gulf Coast Chapter. As I am wrapping up my current term, I'd like to share some thoughts that have been weighing heavy on my heart. This past year we have experienced situations that we never in our wildest imagination thought we would have to adapt to. As you read my personal story below I hope that it inspires you and that you are able to insert a little humor into your daily working lives.

Those who have worked with me before would all say I can usually be found smiling and laughing throughout the work day. I'm also pretty loud and you can always hear me if you are coming around the corner. I contribute this to several years as a cheerleader during my adolescence. I learned to project my voice along with my attitude and personality. As we all know, especially as we reflect over this past year, life is too short. I lost my mother-in-law to COVID-19 in November of last year. She, unlike most mother-in-laws, was more of a mother to me for the last 23 years. I miss her every day. My attitude about her death and how I choose to honor her memory affects not only me, but everyone around me.

My attitude, as well as how I respond to change and adversity sets a mood and a precedence in my environment. Smiling and laughing is one of the most versatile tools in my toolbox. They can indicate my mood, my sincerity, and my enthusiasm to share and interact with others. Smiling and laughing open a channel of two-way communication. Someone who is apprehensive and uncertain will be more likely to open up when I smile. It conveys friendliness, caring, and compassion. My laughter and smile not only elevate my spirit and keep me positive, but they also lighten the mood for others around me that shines as peace and joy in everyone's heart.

continued on next page

Presidents Corner Continued

My brain is consumed with millions of song lyrics. It's one of the ways that I find humor in everyday life. It never fails that I'll be in a meeting or a discussion with someone and a phrase will come out of his/her mouth that I can complete with a song lyric. For example, I was in a cost estimate meeting one day when an engineer said, we need a HERO! What he was referring to was Hazards of Electromagnetic Radiation to Ordnance (HERO), but what came out of my mouth next was the Bonnie Tyler Lyrics of "Holding Out for a Hero." So, I sang, "I need a hero. I'm holding out for a hero 'til the end of the night. He's gotta be strong and he's gotta be fast. And he's gotta be fresh from the fight." Of course, we all shared a laugh and enjoyed the levity it provided during the meeting.

I had never known anyone else who did that until I met a fellow coworker, V. I told her about my meeting and she responds, "I do that too." It wasn't but a few days later that she came to my desk and said that she was in a meeting where they were discussing a news article about an informant. She said, "You know what song started running through my head, don't you? I-N-F-O-R-M-E-R, You no say Daddy me Snow me, I'll go blame." I laughed and I knew at that moment I had a friend for life.

I share these stories with you to say find joy and humor in the little things. Smile and laugh each day. It not only influences you, but everyone around you. You will create long and impactful memories when you laugh with others. None of us are promised tomorrow, so we must strive to live each day to the fullest. "And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me." - Genesis 21:6 KJV.

Fisher House News

Fisher House has resumed their in-person volunteer opportunities! Fisher House is allowing up to 3 volunteers that have been fully vaccinated (2 weeks or more since 2nd shot) to prepare and serve meals for guests. Dates are available on Tues, Wed, and Thurs throughout June & July.

Get your team together and contact Arielle MacKendree (cc line) to sign up or for more info! Fisher House provides military & veteran families with no-cost lodging while their loved one receives medical treatment in the Eglin area. **Volunteering is a great way to team-build and give back to our community!**



Thank you
AFRL
for your
donation to
Fisher
House!



Congratulations to SSgt Chris Day, one of our own Gulf Coast FMers, for winning Contributions in FM in a Contingency Operation at the DoD Level!

SSgt Christopher Day served as the J8 and Disbursing Agent, Forward Aviation Detachment - Burkina Faso (FAD-BF), Joint Special Operations Air Component - Africa (JSOAC-A), Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAF) from 24 October 2019 to 30 May 2020. His broad scope of responsibility supported Africa Command's (AFRICOM) Non-Standard Aviation (NSAv) mission, enabling austere airlift capabilities in 22 countries across three continents. SSgt Day's efforts were integral to FAD-BF's mission continuance during COVID-19 conditions, and contributed greatly in the detachment's relocation to Forward Aviation Detachment - Djibouti in East Africa.

During calendar year 2020, SSgt Christopher Day served as J8 and Disbursing Agent, Forward Aviation Detachment Burkina Faso (FAD-BF), where he managed 420 thousand dollars in aircrew funds across three currencies. He trained and led 14 aircrew paying agents, enabling the movement of 90,000 pounds of cargo. These efforts also allowed 573 Special Operations Forces (SOF) personnel the freedom of movement to isolate and eradicate violent extremist organizations across 22 nations throughout 11 NSAv named operations. Most significantly, SSgt Day revived the tri-currency joint disbursing operations by traveling to Kaiserslautern, Germany to work hands-on with Army funds managers to correct 34 errors inherited from a prior agent's miss-accountability. His efforts resulted in the reinstatement of trust in the operation and ended a 45-day imposed spending freeze. Additionally, in his dual role as Paying Agent, he managed daily operating funds for four team-houses, maintaining safety and life essentials for 90 military and contracted personnel. In this role, he advocated for installation security upgrades, resulting in the organization purchasing three perimeter fences to safeguard personnel and transcontinental aircraft. Furthermore, SSgt Day provided 20 hours of personal Defense Travel System (DTS) instruction, ensuring timely payment of 720 thousand dollars in Scheduled Partial Payments, resulting in zero Government Travel Card (GTC) delinquencies, thereby easing financial burdens for 120 SOF members.



SSgt Day teamed with J4/Civil Engineering to secure local procurement of construction materials. After completing the purchase, SSgt Day personally dedicated 28 hours and led 15 joint personnel in constructing 35 wooden containers and palletizing 110,000 pounds – 12 million dollars' worth – of equipment and resources. His efforts saved the organization 1.2 million dollars and directly contributed to the Forward Aviation Detachment's cross-continent move, refocusing United States strategic efforts to East Africa. In addition to his finance duties, SSgt Day stepped into a vacant J1/Personnel Support for Contingency Operations (PERSCO) position where he drove personnel reporting and JSOAC COVID-19 directives, ensuring 100 percent accountability for forward deployed aircrew. Recognizing a shortfall, he revitalized the Detachment's recognition program and coordinated with the JSOAC-A J1 to clear a seven year award backlog. His efforts resulted in 245 personnel finally receiving decorations missing from their records. SSgt Day endeavored to increase United States and Host Nation relations through his volunteer efforts while deployed. He donated 14 hours to a local school, renovating three of their facilities and enhancing education for its 60 students. He also voluntarily built 25 benches for a local food bank and church, providing critical support to the 2.2 million local residents. SSgt Day's efforts downrange directly contributed to his selection as the 2020 1st Special Operations Comptroller Squadron Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.





Program/Speaker Lineup

15 Apr – RPDI

20 May – CMSgt Eva Rodgers, AFSOC/FM

17 June – Installation of Officers

22 July – Scholarship Presentations

19 Aug* - Mr. Bill Rone, former AFSOC/FM

*Tentative Dates

Announcements

Please shop our Amazon Smile link to support our GC Chapter!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2139423>



Program News

Written by Ken Pickler, Programs Chair

As this chapter year draws to a close, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on this truly amazing year. When Jenna and I first talked about me serving as your programs lead, we were truly in uncharted territory. We'd worked on various things together since she was a student hire and I was doing campus interviews and hiring several of our current chapter officers into AF civilian FM careers. Still, Jenna and I could only guess how this year would play out. Well, I'm pleased to say that our initial plans really came together...because of you!

There are so many people to thank. My programs teammates that I never got to see in person, Amy and Stefanie. Our diverse group of speakers, ranging from Senior Executive Service members in Washington, DC and CFOs managing major acquisition programs--to Lt Col Justus, the 96th CPTS Commander and CMSgt Rodgers at AFSOC/FM. Last, but not least, our loyal members who connected with us via Teams events or conference lines.

In my first newsletter article, I shared my belief that our chapter had "The Right Stuff" to "Thrive on Chaos." You did not disappoint. This has been one of the proudest moments of my AF career, which began as an AFROTC Cadet at the University of South Carolina in 1976. I thank all of you for supporting our chapter this year, and look forward to seeing many of you at our Installation of Officers on 17 June at Two Trees restaurant in Fort Walton Beach.

RPDI Gulf Coast Chapter

Thursday, 15 Apr 21 was our virtual RPDI. A big THANK YOU goes out to Ms. Tanya Hart and Ms. Kaci Harris for leading the RPDI this year.

Our Speakers were fantastic and we appreciate their support in our continued education!

To everyone that had a part in making the 2021 virtual RPDI a great success – we thank you!

National News

AMRAAM completes two more shots

Eglin.af.mil

13 May 2021

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. --

The Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile joint program office completed the second live fire test of the new AIM-120D-3 missile variant, incorporating upgraded hardware into the guidance section May 12.

The weapon safely launched from an F/A-18F Super Hornet and flew the expected flight path over the Point Mugu Sea Test Range in California. Preliminary analysis by Raytheon Missiles & Defense indicated all primary and secondary objectives of the shot were met.

“Completing the first two free flight shots of upgraded hardware and software is a significant milestone in the integration and test phase of the new AIM-120D-3 missile,” said Col. Sean Bradley, Armament Directorate. “These successes are important to the overall execution of the form, fit, function refresh program; a program implemented to address an increasing number of production challenges due to obsolescence of various electronic components within the AIM-120.”

Combined with software upgrades, AIM-120D-3 will deliver advanced capabilities to improve missile effectiveness against advanced threats for Air Force, Navy and allied partners. This missile shot from an F/A-18F Super Hornet tested the missile’s safe separation autopilot and free-flight navigation capabilities.

Together, with the first shot December 9, 2020, these shots represent a critical first in a series of developmental flight tests that provides crucial data to assess the missile’s ability to acquire, track and guide to targets.

