

JETBLAST



EDITOR: ELIZABETH HART JONES



***i**inside this issue*

Inside this issue:

Chapter cook- 2
out in
Warsaw

Member Profile: 4
Harper Alford

Veterans 6
Affairs

Update on 8
USAF license
plate

Editor's Letter 10

USO update 12

JROTC 13
Drill meet

Chapter 14
Officer
Roster

- ***Chapter cookout in Warsaw***
- ***Meet our new president, Harper Alford***
- ***Senate passes triccare protections***
- ***All military wilderness challenge***
- ***USO Welcome Center at RIC***
- ***Reserve your USAF license plate now!***
- ***USO Welcome center at RIC***
- ***AFA Dues increase July 2010...Renew now to save money!***



Our next chapter luncheon will be at the Warsaw home of Col. William A. Jones III, pictured here in his A-1 Skyraider, NKP, Thailand, 1968. Col. Jones was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1970.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 24... JROTC Drill Meet at Atlee High School
- May 1.....RSVP deadline for Warsaw meeting and cookout
- May 8.....Our second quarterly meeting at the home of Col. William A. Jones, III, USAF Medal of Honor recipient, Warsaw, VA.
- June 12....AFA State Meeting in Charlottesville , William A. Jones III Chapter

Spring Cook-out

Our next chapter quarterly meeting and luncheon will be held at the Jones House in Warsaw, Virginia on May 8, 2010. The Jones House is the ancestral home of Col. William A. Jones III, USAF Medal of Honor Recipient. Members of the AFA WA Jones III Chapter in Charlottesville, named for Col. Jones, will be joining us as well. All members and their spouses are encouraged to come enjoy some good old Air Force camaraderie at this special event.

This is a private home so we will have a grilled cookout lunch provided by the chapter. We'll need to know how much to prepare so it is imperative that we have advanced reservations. Please respond by May 1 by calling Elizabeth, or e-mailing.

Advanced reservations required by MAY 1..... Call or e-mail Elizabeth at 763-9407 or ehjones@comcast.net



***Richmond AFA Chapter 243
Cook-out***

*Please join us for the Richmond AFA Chapter
Spring quarterly meeting and luncheon*

At noon on May 8, 2010

*At the Jones House
5707 Richmond Rd.
Warsaw, Virginia*

Menu

*Burgers and dogs
Baked beans, potato salad, chips
Desserts and drinks
No charge but*

***Advanced reservations required by May 1
Call Elizabeth 804 763-9407 or
ehjones@comcast.net***

Directions from Richmond

*Take 64 East to Rt. 360 East at Mechanicsville (Exit 192)
Follow Rt. 360 for approximately 45 miles to Tappahannock.
Turn right onto Queen St. to stay on Rt. 360
Cross the Rappahannock River on the Downing Bridge
Follow Rt. 360 (now Richmond Rd.) for 7 miles to Warsaw.
Home is on the LEFT just past the Rappahannock Community College.
The drive is just before the long wrought iron fence.
Parking is available in the back yard or next door at
Colonial Collectibles Gift Shop*

If you are interested in carpooling, call Harper Alford at 754-2350

MEMBER PROFILE: HARPER ALFORD

This issue of the JetBlast features our new chapter president, Harper Alford, in our Member Profile. . Harper devotes much time and energy to our chapter, serving as our Treasurer for several years, and now taking on the job of our President. We are very fortunate to have someone with such dedication manning the helm of the Richmond chapter. Please come to our next chapter luncheon to meet him in person



Full name, nickname, rank: Harper Shelton Alford, Captain, USAF (separated after seven years)

Where were you born and grow up? Describe your family background. Any military tradition?

I was born and raised in Richmond, VA. My parents were typical of that era – father worked while mother ran the household and raised the children. I have a twin brother and a younger brother. I had three uncles who served in World War II, and my brother went to VMI and was a dentist in the Army for three years. Other than a great-grandfather who went off to the Civil War at the age of 16 and survived that conflict, there is no long-standing military tradition in my family.

I graduated from Hampden-Sydney College with a BA in Mathematics. Coming out of college in June, 1966, I was drafted by the Army the day after graduation. I did not want to be a “ground pounder”, so I had been talking to the Air Force recruiter in Richmond that spring about opportunities in the USAF. He enthusiastically wanted me for officer’s school with my technical background. So when I was drafted, he somehow made a deal with the Richmond Draft Board to give me up so I could join the Air Force and become an officer. That’s how I started on my Air Force sojourn.

How long was your career in the USAF?

I spent seven years in the USAF. One and a half years after I was commissioned, I was selected to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology, graduate School of Systems and Logistics, for a MS degree in Logistics Management. I completed this one year course in August, 1970 and incurred an additional four years educational commitment. By early 1973 the Vietnam War was winding down, and I could definitely see that non-rated officers would be the first part of a large scale reduction in force. So I accepted an offer to forgo three years off of my education commitment and separated from active duty in June, 1973.

What was your last position when you retired/separated?

My last assignment was at Langley AFB as a communications planning officer in TAC COMM AREA. While I was still assigned to the Air Force Communications Service, I wrote and updated tactical communications operations plans that supported the Tactical Air Command.

Can you describe some of the highlights of your military career?

Most of my first four years in the Air Force was spent in a training environment with very little actual operations experience. After graduating from Officer Training School in October 1966, I spent the next eleven months in Communications Officer school at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Mississippi. Following that, I was assigned to the 2045th Communications Group, Andrews AFB, outside of Washington DC, for training in the Automatic Digital Network (AUTODIN) computerized communications system. One of the highlights of my work there was a ride in the Presidential aircraft (Boeing 707 #26000) to learn about the communications equipment in that plane. While at Andrews, I was selected to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology, so I stayed at Andrews for another year and a half doing very little operational work. After finishing AFIT, I was assigned to the 1876 Communications Squadron at Tan Son Nhut AB outside Saigon. This was my best assignment as I was Squadron OIC of the Voice Communications division managing six different departments. I was the base communications security officer responsible for the distribution of communications cryptographic material to about 40 different AF, Army and Navy units.

What are your decorations? Campaign medals?

Besides the usual Viet Nam campaign medals and normal decorations, I did receive the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service during my Viet Nam tour.

What is your involvement with the Air Force Association?

I joined AFA around 1968 but was never active in a local chapter. I enjoyed reading the AFA magazine and following Air Force activities. Six years ago I read in the Jetblast newsletter that a chapter treasurer was needed. So I became active then and have really gotten much satisfaction from helping revive the Richmond chapter and becoming involved in various projects. I was appointed chapter president last December and am just now learning more about leading the chapter.

Where do you currently reside? Are you married? Children? Any grown children serving in the military?

I live in western Henrico County, am not married and have three grown children and four grandchildren (two in Atlanta and two in Seattle).

Do you have any ruminations you'd like to share about your association with the USAF and the Air Force Association?

While I probably would not have gone into the military if there had not been the Viet Nam War, I really did enjoy my active duty in the USAF. I was single then and got to travel to Hong Kong, Sydney, Australia, and to Europe. Most importantly, I was exposed to a segment of our country and society – the US Military and its people - which I grew to respect and greatly admire. I feel my entire life since then has benefited tremendously from this exposure and associations. As far as responsibility goes, I had more responsibilities in my Viet Nam tour than I've ever had in any job since then. Nothing I've done can compare to that year of leading young men and women in supporting that war effort.





Week of April 12, 2010 Military.com report:

SENATE PASSES TRICARE PROTECTIONS

House action still needed to recognize VA healthcare

WASHINGTON (April 13, 2010) - With the Senate passage of S. 3148 last night, all military TRICARE programs will soon be recognized as meeting minimum essential coverage standards under the new national healthcare law, according to the national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

Though a great victory for more than 9 million military families and retirees, Thomas J. Tradewell Sr. cautioned against celebrating until the House acts on S. 3162, which was introduced by Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) to recognize and protect all VA healthcare programs, too.

"There are a few more parts to this mission, which won't be complete until the House passes S. 3162 and the president signs both bills," he said.

The VFW has been aggressively working since mid-March to ensure the new national healthcare law recognizes and protects all the healthcare programs provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

"National healthcare will help many veterans who are ineligible for DOD or VA care," said Tradewell, a combat-wounded Vietnam veteran from Sussex, Wis., "but missing from the original legislation was language that specifically recognized all military TRICARE and VA programs as meeting minimum essential coverage standards. That meant standalone legislation was required to protect all the healthcare programs provided by the nation's two largest federal departments."

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ike Skelton (D-Mo.) was the first to act with the introduction of H.R. 4887. His bill was necessary because the national healthcare legislation, as written, only recognized TRICARE for Life, and excluded a half dozen other TRICARE programs, as well as the health plan provided to DOD nonappropriated fund employees. H.R. 4887 passed unanimously 403-0. Senate Armed Service Personnel Subcommittee Chairman Jim Webb (D-Va.) quickly introduced S. 3148 as a companion to Skelton's H.R. 4887, which cleared the Senate last night.

Senate VA Committee Chairman Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) introduced S. 3162 to recognize and protect all VA programs. His bill remains necessary because the national healthcare legislation, as written, only recognizes veterans covered under chapter 17 of Title 38, and excludes other Title 38 recipients, to include widows and dependent children. S. 3162 passed the Senate March 26, but has yet to move to a vote in the House.

"Bill language is extremely important because it becomes the law of the land," said Tradewell, who applauded the efforts of Skelton, Webb and Akaka, as well as Senate VA Committee ranking member Richard Burr (R-N.C.), House VA Committee ranking member Steve Buyer (R-Ind.), and House Armed Services Committee ranking member Buck McKeon (R-Calif.).

"The VFW salutes these true champions in Congress for ensuring all the hard earned DOD and VA healthcare programs for America's veterans, service-members and their families are protected in writing."



Registration Open For 2010 All-Military Wilderness Challenge

YORKTOWN – Registration is open for the Mid-Atlantic Region, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department’s 10th annual all-military Wilderness Challenge. The Wilderness Challenge takes place, Oct. 7–9, in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains and on the New and the Gauley Rivers in West Virginia. The event is hosted and co-organized by ACE Adventure Resort, West Virginia's largest outdoor outfitter. More than 300 military people representing teams from around the World are expected to compete. Only the first 60 teams will compete, so teams are encouraged to register early.

“The MWR Wilderness Challenge continues to bring together the best athletes in the armed forces and puts them to the test,” said Michael Bond, event coordinator. “The competition gets tougher and tougher every year.” Bond encourages teams to register early to reserve their space in the competition.

The challenge contains a series of five outdoor adventure races in a team format designed to bring camaraderie, competition and team spirit between all five branches of the Armed Services. Teams participating in this year’s challenge will compete in an 8K mountain run, a 14-mile mountain bike race, a 14-mile forced hike through the mountains, a 13-mile whitewater raft race on the Gauley River and a 7-mile kayak race on the New River. Last year’s winner was the “Dale Milton Racing” team from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

“The Army and the Navy have yet to win the Wilderness Challenge,” Bond stated. “This is a great opportunity for a team from one of these services to step up and win big.”

“It is not an easy competition and only the strong survive, so the winning team will be the best of the best in outdoor recreation and physical endurance,” Bond concluded.

Registration is open to all branches of the military. Teams must be comprised of four active duty military, one of which must be female. Registration can be made online at www.wildernesschallenge.net or by calling (757) 887-7256.

NOW ACCEPTING PRE-ORDERS AIR FORCE LICENSE PLATE



The Air Force Association Virginia Branch proudly announces its campaign for a U.S. Air Force Specialty License Plate! This plate will display the modern emblem of the Air Force and be available for all past and present members of the Regular Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard or Civil Air Patrol. Delegate Richard Anderson of Prince William County (retired USAF colonel and lifetime member of the AFA) has agreed to sponsor a bill that will be introduced to the General Assembly in Jan 2011, along with twenty other delegates who have signed on as co-sponsors.

Currently, there are plates for the Army, Marines, and Coast Guard, but not Air Force or Navy. With this plate, we can increase public awareness of the Air Force and display our camaraderie and pride of service. AFA Richmond Chapter 243 will administer the campaign by receiving applications and payments, working with Delegate Anderson and his staff, working with the DMV, and providing project updates.

However, we need your support! The bill won't go forward to the General Assembly unless we collect 350 paid applications by December 15th. See below for questions and answers. Apply for yours today!

HOW TO APPLY

Complete, print and sign **DMV Form VSA10 – License Plate Application** found at:
<http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/webdoc/pdf/vsa10.pdf>

Check block for "Military" and enter "U.S. Air Force"
Complete one form per plate

Attach **check** made payable to "AFA Richmond Chapter 243"

\$10 for non-personalized plate
\$20 for personalized plate (new or existing)

Attach photocopy of a document showing **proof of service**

Examples: DD214, Military ID Card, Retiree ID Card, Discharge Certificate

Attach 3x5 card with your **email address** so we can send you updates

Mail **completed form and attachments** to:

AFA Richmond Chapter 243
P.O. Box 2195
Mechanicsville, VA 23116
Attn: License Plate Application

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

Who is eligible for this plate? Anyone who has served or is still serving (or surviving spouse) honorably in the U.S Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve or Civil Air Patrol will be eligible for to receive this plate.

What is the timeline of activities?

Dec 15, 2010: Suspense for raising 350 paid applications

Jan 2011: Draft bill will be submitted by Del. Anderson to General Assembly

Mar 2011: General Assembly votes on the bill; if passes, it goes to Governor

Apr 2011: Governor signs bill into law which will be effective July 1

July 2011: AFA submits the applications, payments and plate design to DMV, who will then review the entire package, develop the plates and mail them out.

Dec 2011: Anticipated date of mail delivery of the plates

Is the design final? Although the design complies with the basic requirements of DMV, it will not be submitted to or approved by DMV unless the bill becomes law; therefore, the design is subject to minor change.

If 350 applications are not collected, will I get my money back? Yes. Your application check will be deposited into a non-interest bearing bank account. If the 350 applications are achieved, a single check will be made to DMV to go along with the applications; if not, the applicants will be refunded.

How much will it cost? \$10 for non-personalized or \$20 for personalized, *per plate requested*. These fees are annual and will be included in your Vehicle Registration Renewal.

Who will be handling the money I send? The Treasurer of AFA Richmond Chapter 243, Mr. Steven Combs.

May I order more than one Air Force plate? Yes, you may order them for any or all of your motor vehicles; however, it is not available for motorcycles, trailers, or trucks over 7,501lbs.

I currently have a personalized plate; can I keep my personalization? Yes, the plate will hold up to six characters (including spaces, dashes, and ampersands). Simply include your current personalization on the DMV application form.

I don't currently have a personalized plate, but would like to get one with this new plate; can I do this? Yes, the plate will hold up to six characters (including spaces, dashes, and ampersands). Simply include your desired personalization on the DMV application form; *but, be sure to check for availability on the DMV website first*. We will not do this for you.

How will I know if the bill passes? AFA Richmond Chapter 243 will send out regular updates, so it is very important that you *include your email address (or mailing address if you don't use email) with your application*.

Who is running this project? This is an official project of the Virginia Branch of the Air Force Association. The Richmond Chapter 243 is the OPR, and Dave A. Kolmer, Lt Col, USAFR is the POC.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!



EDITOR'S LETTER

Hello fellow chapter members,

I hope many of you will be joining us at my family home in Warsaw, Virginia for our May 8 chapter luncheon. It should be a delightful event. The house is a beautiful example of Queen Anne Victorian architecture, and has only been open to the public once, which was in 2006 for Garden Week. It was built in 1888 by my great-grandfather, Congressman William A. Jones I. Congressman Jones authored the Jones bill that granted independence to the Philippine Islands and during his congressional terms he and his wife travelled extensively throughout the Orient. The home is decorated with many souvenirs of their travels in the Pacific during the early 1900's.

My father, Col. William A. Jones III grew up here, and is buried nearby in the family plot at St. John's Church in Warsaw. The Medal of Honor along with other military regalia is displayed in the drawing room.

Our guests have often told us that entering the house is like stepping back in time. We hope you'll come see for yourself. And after your visit you might want to go next door to shop at Colonial Collectibles...a charming gift shop with local flavor. The owners of Colonial Collectibles have graciously offered their parking lot for us if we need the extra space.

Also of interest in the Northern Neck

- St. John's Church where Congressman Jones and other members of the Jones family are buried. The Philippine people erected a beautiful monument over his grave to express their "undying gratitude".
- Richmond County Museum, Richmond Rd. across from the Northern Neck State Bank
- Stratford Hall, birthplace of Robert E. Lee
- Westmoreland State Park
- Reedville and Irvington
- Christ Church
- Colonial Collectibles Gift Shop

Come on down, y'all!

Elizabeth Hart Jones



Lest we forget! Col. Carl Bess has offered to spearhead a group of AFA members for wreath-laying at the Virginia War Memorial and other veterans ceremonies. We've called for volunteers to help in previous issues but so far **NO ONE** has stepped up to help! He can't do this alone. If you are interested in assisting with this valuable and meaningful service, please contact Col. Bess at 804 217-9724 (home) or 804 314-8933 or e-mail cbess@comcast.net



*“Show me the man you honor, and I will show you
the kind of man you are.”
-Thomas Carlyle, 1855*

AFA DUES TO INCREASE \$\$\$

During the September 2009 AFA National Convention, the delegates agreed to increase the annual dues, and by extension, the multi-year dues, by 25%, as of July 1, 2010. This is the first adjustment since 2000 – almost ten years. The new one-year membership rate will be \$45, versus the current \$36.

Until July 1 of this year, annual renewals can still be obtained at the current price of \$36. *So act now* if you are thinking of renewing your membership for one, or three years, or even a lifetime membership. ➔

- **USO WELCOME CENTER UPDATE!** The USO will be opening a “Welcome Center” for military personnel at the Richmond International Airport. The Center is tentatively scheduled to open in June 2010 on the lower level of the airport near baggage claim. Chapter president Harper Alford and chapter secretary Elizabeth Hart Jones attended a recent meeting for volunteers of the USO. AFA Chapter members are encouraged to donate time and contributions. If you would like to donate or volunteer, please contact *Pat Jordan, USO Richmond Center Director*
1 Richard E. Byrd Terminal Dr. Suite 104
Richmond, VA. 23250-2400
804-564-2233
Pat@usohr.org
www.USOCentralVA.org

→→→



***“All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win is for
Good men to do nothing.”***
-Edmund Burke, 1780

NEW VP OF AEROSPACE EDUCATION

We are pleased to announce a new member on our Executive Committee for Richmond AFA Chapter 243. Keith Shaffer has graciously volunteered to fill this vacant position. We appreciate his help and look forward to working together.

The Executive Committee is still in need of Vice Presidents for Membership and Community Partners. These VP’s would spearhead efforts to recruit new members to our chapter, and new businesses to join as community partners. This is crucial to our fundraising efforts. If you would like to get involved in this worthwhile and fulfilling service, please contact any one of our executive committee officers (listed on page 14). You’ll be glad you did!

→→→



April 24, 9-4

Atlee High School Air Force JROTC at State Drill Meet '09

Don't miss the 5th Annual Virginia AFA JROTC State Championship Drill Meet at Atlee High School on April 24 from 9:00 to 4:00. It's a fun and exciting day...quite impressive to see what our young people can do. The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard from Bolling AFB will perform at the closing ceremony and serve as judges. Thirty-two of the thirty-four AFJROTC Schools in Virginia are expected to participate...this promises to be the best attended ever. The event is co-sponsored by AFA Richmond and Tidewater Chapters and volunteers are needed for help with scoring, judging and hosting a "Lounge" for JROTC Instructors, Judges and Staff where a continental breakfast and pizza lunch will be provided. Hats and Tee shirts will also be for sale. If you can give us some of your time that day, please contact Chip Moran at: Cell 800-296-1516 or Chip.moran@yahoo.com



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

We are REQUIRED by AFA to send ONE newsletter each year via US Postal Service. If you have internet access and agree to receiving the Newsletter via e-mail you will be asked to send us confirmation to our new e-mail address at

AFA_VA243@member.afa.org

If you received this by e-mail we already have you in the data base, but you need to respond to us to make sure your address is entered into the data base at our new e-mail address. Thank you for taking time to either add or confirm your e-mail address, or to let us know you wish to receive the newsletter quarterly via USPS mail by calling Elizabeth Hart Jones at 804 763-9407 or Chip Moran (Toll Free: 800-296-1516).

AFA Richmond Chap. 243
P.O. Box 2195
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116

E-mail: AFA_VA243@member.afa.org



The Force behind the Force.

**[We're on the web!
www.richmond-afa.org]**

2009 Chapter Officer Roster and Vacant Positions

President **	Harper Alford.....H 804-754-2350.....hsa888@gmail.com
Vice President**	Dave Reisenwitz.....H 804-750-1116.....dreisenwitz@verizon.net
Secretary**	Elizabeth Hart Jones...Cell 804-763-9407.....ehjones@comcast.net
Treasurer**	Steven Combs.....H 804-496-6067.....steven_j_combs@hotmail.com
VP Aerospace Ed.	Keith Shaffer.....catsrr1@aol.com
VP Gov. Relations	Fred Williamson.....H 804-512-4653.....fhw@hwagroup.com
VP Vets. Affairs	Dave Ellis.....H 540-891-7246.....david_sally@verizon.net
VP Comm.	Julia Reisenwitz Juliar285@gmail.com
VP Membership	VACANT – Desperately NEEDED !!!
VP Community Partners	VACANT – Desperately NEEDED !!!
VP Leadership Dev.....	Chip Moran.....Cell 800-296-1516Chip.moran@yahoo.com
Members At Large:	
	Bob Gill milfig@msn.com
	Bruce Ivey iveyclan4@earthlink.net

Positions followed by ** are elected for two year terms, unless incumbent agrees to serve longer. ALL other positions are appointed by the elected officers to members who have shown a desire to serve in that position or on a specific committee. You are the “ONE” member who can help us grow !!

