

Note from AFA President -- UAV/RPV, 4 business items

AFA Members, two weeks ago, I sent you a note (http://www.afa.org/PresidentsCorner/Notes/Notes_7-25-09.pdf) about UAVs. In it, I noted that a better name for UAVs might be Remotely Piloted Vehicles or RPVs. I received quite a bit of mail on the subject. One thoughtful piece came from a Colonel in command of a unit in the AOR. He stated a better description was really UAS - or Unmanned Aerial System. This included not only the maintenance, munitions loaders, etc but the hundreds of intelligence analysts who filter, reduce, and share the data from the missions. A second thoughtful response came from a person ... who I presumed was retired ... but had kept contact with the Air Force and its issues. He [rightfully, in my mind] brought up the blinding flash of the obvious ... and questioned the use of the word "vehicle." "After all," he said. "These are not vehicles, they are airplanes. They should be called Remotely Piloted Aircraft - or RPA."

All of this reminded me of a former boss of mine - who asked one of his division chiefs to write letters to the producers of Star Trek, to attempt to get them to change the ranks of Capt Kirk and Commander Spock. His reasoning was that spacecraft were not ships, and they should be commanded by Airmen. As such, the proper titles of the two should be: Col Kirk and Lt Col Spock.

The point of above is that words matter ... and I trust the Air Force to develop the right name for a new system of systems that are in operation and in development.

Secondly, a few business items:

Holiday Ornament. AFA has developed an Air Force Memorial Holiday Ornament and is selling them on the web. Since, it is a limited edition, we do not have a large supply ... and they are selling fast. We have an ad coming out in the Sep edition of AIR FORCE Magazine ... but ... if you want one, I'd recommend you get it early. [They make great presents for family members ... plus this is the first in a series of ornaments that will come out, hopefully, every year.] See this site: http://afa.tranquard.com/details.asp?item_id=539&tgs=1910042:6464967&cart_id

Combined Federal Campaign. Many of you contribute to CFC. I would ask that you consider directing your donations to either the Air Force Association or the Air Force Memorial Foundation. The numbers are listed below

- AFA CFC Number: **12214**
- AFMF CFC Number: **11953**

Membership. As some of you may know, membership is important to AFA. It is not just financial ... we have more of a voice on your issues when we have more members. There is one Member of Congress, who ... every time I walk in the door ... asks me how many members we have. As you may know, the Air Force Association is no longer a veteran's association. We are now a "true" non-profit. Anyone can be a member. What I plan to do this year ... as a part of the holidays, is to give a membership to each of my two sons. It helps us all to have your support. If you know someone who wants to join ... or for whom you want to purchase a membership, it can be done on line at: https://www.afa.org/forms/joinapp.asp?pm=show_form&cn

Financial. I know we send you lots of solicitations ... but we do need your support ... for our education programs, for our support of the Air Force and the Air Force family, and ... for you. Please help where you can. Our Director of Development, Ms Lois O'Connor can help you if you would like to make larger donations or to leave something for AFA in your will. She can be reached at: LOconnor@AFA.org or (703) 247-5832. I have noted that some have even recognized AFA in the category of: "In lieu of flowers, the family requests you make a charitable donation to the Air Force Association."

It goes without saying that this is for a great cause ... to support our Air Force. Thank you to those who have supported and continue to support this great organization.

Respectfully,

Mike

Michael M. Dunn
President/CEO