



**AFCEA Blue Angel's Pensacola Chapter
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2005**

The August meeting of the AFCEA Pensacola Blue Angel's Chapter was called to order at the Light House Restaurant at NAS Pensacola at 11:30am on August 19, 2005 by Vice President Michael O'Shea. There were approximately 20 people in attendance at the meeting.

Officers present were Michael O'Shea, Robyn Philips, Steve Gibson, Reubin Felkey, Chuck Staton and Curt Jones.

VIP's in attendance included:

1. Fred H. Rainbow, VP and Executive Director AFCEA Education Foundation
2. COL. Lou Ramos, USAF (RET.), Regional Vice President AFCEA International
3. Meredith Jones – Director of College Development and Alumni Affairs (University of West Florida)
4. Lacey Collier – Federal Judge and Military Appreciation Month Chairman, Pensacola Chapter
5. Susan Stephenson - Executive Director University of West Florida Foundation
6. James H. Schindler, M.S. – Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, Columbia Southern University

Michael O'Shea, 2nd Vice President called the meeting to order and welcomed the VIPs. Lou Ramos offered vocation and pledge of allegiance. The next order of business was to allow all the attendees to introduce themselves and network for thirty minutes while lunch was served in the Goshawk Room, Lighthouse Point Restaurant.

Mike O'Shea introduced guest speaker Fred Rainbow who took the podium to address the Pensacola Chapter. Mr. Rainbow stated that he has been a member of AFCEA for 19 years and gave the group a short summary of his background. Fred H. Rainbow joined the AFCEA International staff as the Vice President for Education and the Executive Director of the AFCEA Educational Foundation in May 2005. Mr. Rainbow came to AFCEA from the U.S. Naval Institute where he had worked for 30 years.

Mr. Rainbow stated that his main purpose for his visit to Pensacola was to introduce the Education Foundation to the chapter. The AFCEA Educational Foundation is responsible for giving out over \$300,000 in scholarships. By comparison, the Chapters give out over \$1,000,000 locally, but Rainbow has made it his objective to increase that amount. His first goal in introducing his role to us, was to 'Put a Face' on the efforts of the Educational Foundation. He did this by telling a few stories of some recent scholarship winners:

Donald Eng

This year's National High School Science Fair Grand Prize Winner nominated by the Jacksonville Chapter, Donald Eng attended TechNet International as part of his prize and had the opportunity to demonstrate his robotic project to a broad range of audiences – from

flag and general officers to high school and middle school students. He entered MIT this fall.

Ensign Graig T. Diefenderfer, USN

Ensign Diefenderfer received the AFCEA Service Academy Honor Award as the top electrical engineering graduate at the U.S. Naval Academy. Superintendent Vice Admiral Rodney P. Rempt pointed out during the honors ceremony that Dr. William C. Miller, Academic Dean and Provost of the Academy, received this same AFCEA award when he was a midshipman. Ensign Diefenderfer is serving on the USS *O'Kane*.

Abbie K. Whynot

A computer engineering major at the University of California, San Diego, and a recipient of the 2004 AFCEA Lockheed Martin Orincon IT Scholarship, Whynot also landed an internship and part-time job with Lockheed Martin Orincon.

Army ROTC Cadet Jenni L. Williams

Cadet Williams, a University of West Florida junior who entered her quest for education and service after having two children, received two AFCEA awards in 2005 - the ROTC Honor Award as the top junior student in her ROTC unit and the General John A. Wickham Scholarship.

Each of these young men and women has a special story and has greatly influenced their learning experience and benefited from the activities of the AFCEA Educational Foundation.

Mr. Rainbow's next point was to explain who the Foundation operates. Incredibly, they are entirely self-sustaining. The foundation receives the majority of their funding from Individual Gifts, Corporate Sponsors, and Chapter Contributions. In addition, the foundation offers professional development/educational courses whose tuition fees are used to fund scholarships.

A new mission for the Foundation is to find corporations willing to give matching scholarship funds. An example of this is Northrop Grumman who agreed to match each \$5,000 contribution up to a total of \$60,000. They are currently seeking more organizations to provide matching scholarship funding. An additional means to get money is through similarly minded organizations such as the Medal of Honor Foundation who funds four \$3,000 scholarships through the AFCEA Educational Foundation due to the fact that they have no overhead requirements.

Mr. Rainbow's final objective was to ask for our help. He continues to seek input from the Chapters on the areas where he can improve. Aside from seeking funding support from local chapters, the Educational Foundation also wants to ensure that all awards are presented by a representative from a local chapter. Finally, the Foundation is seeking support from corporations to potential match scholarship winners with companies for internships or job openings. Rainbow asked the Pensacola chapter to provide input to the Education Foundation on how they can support our chapter's membership through scholarships, awards or grants.

Mr. Lou Ramos (Regional VP for Western Florida) then spoke to the group about activities in his region. He gave kudos to both the Tampa and Blue Angels Pensacola Chapters. Specifically, he stated that while the Blue Angels Chapter was his smallest Chapter, it was

also his most active.

Chapter business was held. The group approved a motion to provide financial support for Pensacola's Military Appreciation Month (MAM) 2005, local scholarships and a minimum of \$500 to be committed and sent to support The Educational Foundation, AFCEA International. The amounts to be provided for scholarships will be determined after the 2005 Golf Tournament is complete (October 13th, 2005 at the A.C. Read N.A.S. Pensacola).

Robyn Philips, AFCEA's Pensacola VP of Membership, offered to institute a "Whynot Award" named after Abbie K. Whynot mentioned above. Have the award be a combined scholarship and internship award.

In closing, Chuck Staton updated the status of the pending Golf Tournament. The majority of the major sponsorships are filled. While the Blue Angels have pledged to return to defend their victory last year, an additional ten to eleven teams are needed to fill the tournament.

Following his presentation, Chuck Staton, VP Fund Raising was presented with a Regional Meritorious Award by Lou Ramos to honor his outstanding contributions to the local Chapter and to AFCEA International as a whole.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.

The Minutes will be posted on the chapter website: www.afceapns.org

NEXT AFCEA BLUE ANGEL PENSACOLA CHAPTER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, 15 SEP 05 AT 11:30AM, AT LIGHTHOUSE RESTAURANT ON BOARD NASP