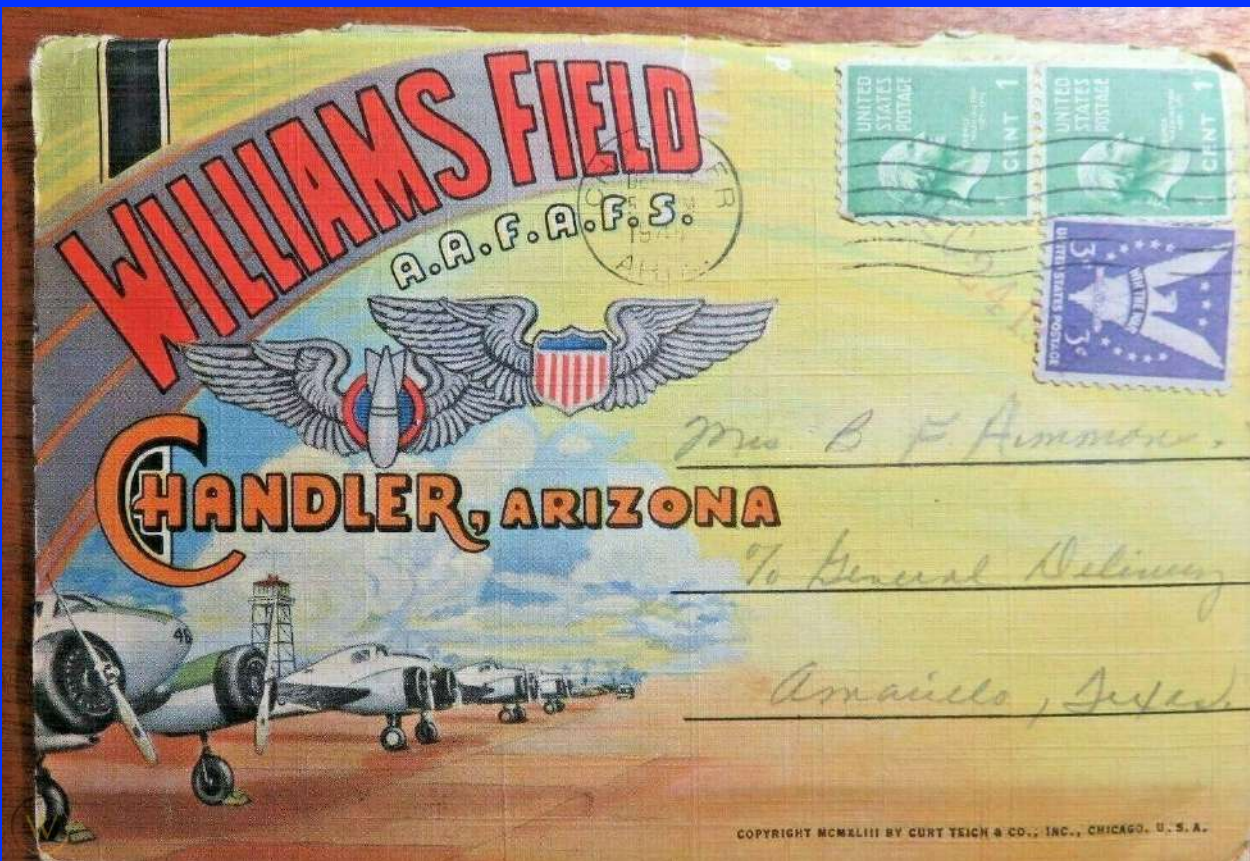
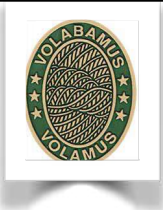


Willie Flight 822



Willie was initially named **Mesa Military Airport**. the name was changed October 1941 to **Higley Field**, the base being in the proximity of the town of Higley, Arizona. In February 1942, the growing military airfield's name was changed to **Williams Field** in honor of Arizona native 1st Lt Charles Linton Williams (1898–1927). Lieutenant Williams died on 6 July 1927 when his Boeing PW-9A pursuit aircraft crashed near Fort DeRussy, Hawaii. Williams Field was re-designated **Williams Air Force Base** on 13 January 1948. The Base was closed in 1993 and officially reopened as Williams Gateway Airport in March 1994. In 2007, the name of the Airport was changed to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.



WILLIE FLIGHT 82
Order of Daedalians
P.O. Box 11261, Chandler, AZ 85248
<http://www.willieflight.net>



October 2023

IMMEDIATE PAST FLIGHT CAPTAIN



I hope you are having a great Fall. **As a reminder, we have changed the location of our meeting and time of the month.** We have changed the location in attempt to facilitate members from the old Thunderbird Flight joining us.

Our meeting will be on **THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER**. The new location is the **Wyndham Phoenix Airport/Tempe , 1600 S. 52nd St. Tempe, AZ85281**. The social hour starts at 11:00 with lunch starting 12:00, speaker around 12:45 and wrapping up around 1:30 or so. Our guest speaker will be Lt Col David Richardson Det 25 Commander at ASU (See attached Bio).

We hope to have some of our friends from the former Thunderbird Flight join us for this meeting. **It is very important that they contact me by email; rbperkins@cox.net, text to 602-295-3880, or call me to let me know that they plan to attend.** Anyone who commits to attending and does not show will **still has to pay** the luncheon cost of \$35. I need to have the notification **NLT Sunday October 8th**.

Volabamus Volamus

Ron Perkins

NEXT MEETING:

It will be on **Thursday, 12 Oct at Wyndham Hotel Phoenix Airport/Tempe**

Speaker Topic: ASU AFROTC Program

Time: 1100 Social Hour, 1200 Lunch

Meeting Dress: Dressy Casual

Price: \$35 per person.

Note: Scholarship Raffle tix are 6 for \$5.

Reservations: To make a reservation, please contact your Element Leader (page 6), by Sunday, 8 Oct.

Cancellations: If you have made reservations and you cannot attend, please contact Gary Schooler (480-208-6615) as soon as possible, so he can notify the restaurant. **Cancellations made less than 72 hours before the meeting will incur a \$35 charge.**

2023/4 Meeting Calendar (2nd Thursday)

12 Oct	General Meeting
9 Nov	General Meeting
14 Dec	General Meeting
11 Jan	General Meeting
8 Feb	General Meeting
14 Mar	General Meeting

Officers & Staff:

Elected Officers:

Flight Captain: Sig Nelson, 602-793-4367
Vice Flight Captain: Dave Vangsnes, 480-279-1191
Treasurer: Gary Schooler, 480-208-6615
Scholarships Chairman: TBD **HELP!**
Provost Marshal: Rick Drown, 480-857-1757

Appointed Staff:

Flight Adjutant: TBD **HELP!**
Elements Co.: Ron Perkins, 602-295-3880
Chaplain: TBD **HELP!**
A-V Support: Art Stark, 480-288-9301
Webmaster: Kurt Gearhart, 480-329-1936
Biographies: Gary Klein, 480-650-5522
Asst Scholar./Awards: Gary Zettl, 480-415-6854
Newsletter Editor: TBD **HELP!**
Membership & Pub.: Ron Perkins, 602-295-3880

Unfortunately, this will be **my last month as newsletter editor** for the Flight. I've had a heck of a run serving on your Flight Staff as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor for over seven years. I've really enjoyed the leadership shown working with Flight Captains Art Stark, Gerry Homewood, Frank Stookey, Don Harvel, and Ron Perkins as well as the fantastic dedication of my fellow staff members.

But, it is my opinion that Willie Flight is in serious jeopardy of eminent failure to survive as a meaningful organization. This ominous outlook, in my opinion, is directly related to the lack over the last three or four years of new volunteers from the Flight stepping up and **committing to contribute** their ideas and "elbow grease" by serving on the Flight Staff. Without a continuous flow of new blood in the leadership positions, we will die of apathy.

Ron Perkins has gone over and beyond the call of duty to fill in for the leadership void this past year and no one has stepped up from the Flight to assist him and the short-handed staff. The Future of Willie Flight is in YOUR hands. How about offering up YOUR HAND?

Don't let Willie Flight fail!

Bill Follette

HELP!

Officers & Staff:

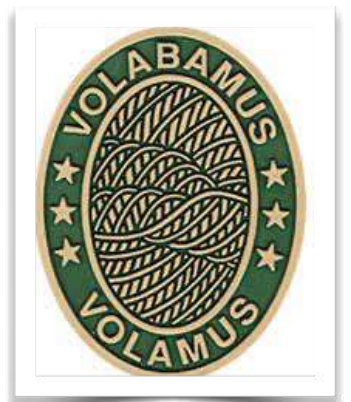
Elected Officers:

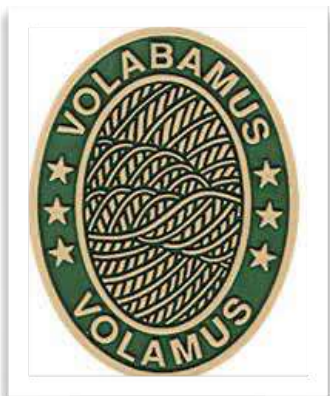
Flight Captain: Sig Nelson, 602-793-4367
Vice Flight Captain: **NEW** Dave Vangsnes, 480-279-1191
Treasurer: Gary Schooler, 480-208-6615
Scholarships Chairman: **TBD HELP!**
Provost Marshal: Rick Drown, 480-857-1757

Appointed Staff:

Flight Adjutant: **TBD HELP!**
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Newsletter Editor: **TBD HELP!**
Membership & Pub.: **Ron Perkins**, 602-295-3880

September Meeting





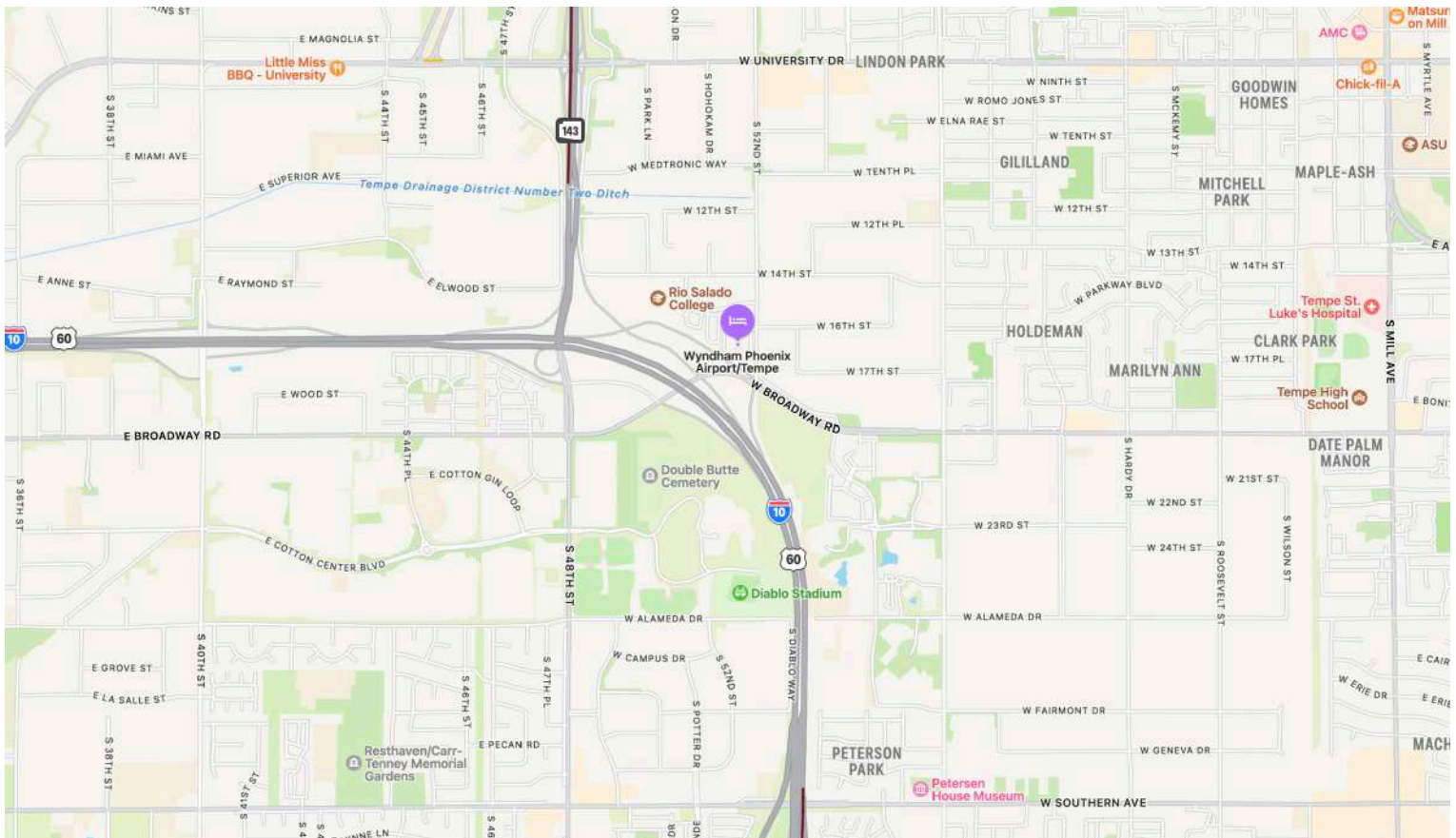
Attention All : Your element Leader may have changed; be sure to check it out!!!!

Flight 82 Luncheon Reservation Procedures:

When you get this newsletter, please contact your Element Leader (shown below) to make a reservation by the Saturday prior to the meeting. If that does not work, please contact Gary Schooler (480-208-6615).

MEMBERS	ELEMENT LEADER	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
ALLEN TO BURKE	SIG NELSON	sig.nelson@cox.net	602-793-4367
BUSHKO TO FOLLETTE	ART STARK	artstark6160@gmail.com	480-277-4700
FRANKLIN TO JOHNSON	GARY ZETTL	gzettl@msn.com	480-415-6854
JONAS TO OLDROYD	BILL FOLLETTE	bill@strategicquality.com	602-619-5445
OLNEY TO STARK	RICK DROWN	rickdrown@msn.com	480-518-7665
SULLIVAN TO ZETTL	RON PERKINS	rbperkins@cox.net	602-295-3880

**We meet at the Wyndham Hotel
Phoenix Airport: 1600 S 52nd St
Tempe, AZ 85281**



Our October Speaker



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL D. SHANE RICHARDSON

Lieutenant Colonel D. Shane Richardson is the Commander at Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC), Detachment 025, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. As the commander he is responsible for a comprehensive college program focused on recruiting, training and preparing more than 175 officer candidates from Arizona State University and 11 cross-town universities. Additionally, Lieutenant Colonel Richardson is the Professor of Aerospace Studies, instructing National Security, Leadership Responsibilities and Commissioning Preparation.



Lieutenant Colonel Richardson received his commission from Officer Training School in 2006 after spending 15 years enlisted in Security Forces. Lieutenant Colonel Richardson is a Distinguished Graduate from Officer Training School and Airman Leadership School. During his enlisted years, he was assigned to a variety of positions, including Law Enforcement Desk Sergeant and Flight Chief. His assignments included time in North Dakota, Turkey, United Kingdom, Nevada, and Japan. He has been deployed numerous times including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Saudi Arabia, and most recently Pakistan. As a 2d Lieutenant, he was assigned as an Acquisitions Officer at Los Angeles Air Force Base, California, where he served as a program manager, an executive officer, and a staff officer to the Space & Missile Systems Center Commander. Upon completion of his tour, he was assigned to the C-17 Combined Program Office, where he again performed duties as a program manager and executive officer. Lieutenant Colonel Richardson was then assigned to AFROTC as the Operations Officers and an Associate Professor of Aerospace Studies at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He followed this assignment in the Pentagon as Chief of Nuclear Plans and Programs in the Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration Directorate. Prior to serving as the Commander, AFROTC Detachment 025, Lieutenant Colonel Richardson was the Director of Staff at AFROTC Detachment 805, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

EDUCATION

1996 Airman Leadership School, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey
2002 Associate Degree, Criminal Justice, Community College of the Air Force, Nellis AFB, Nevada
2005 Bachelor of Science, Management Studies, University of Maryland, Kadena AFB, Japan
2006 Aerospace Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
2006 Air Force Fundamentals of Acquisitions Management, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
2015 Squadron Officers School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
2017 Master of Business Administration with Distinction, Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas
2018 Air Command and Staff College, by correspondence, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

2020 Master of Operational Science, Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

2022 Air War College, by correspondence, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

ASSIGNMENTS

1. April 1992 – June 1993, Security Police Response Team Member, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota
2. June 1993 – June 1994, Security Police Patrolman, Pirincilik Air Base (AB), Turkey
3. June 1994 – June 1996, Security Police Patrolman, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom
4. June 1996 – June 1997, Law Enforcement Desk Sergeant, Pirincilik AB, Turkey
5. June 1997 – December 2002, Security Controller, Nellis AFB, Nevada
6. December 2002 – January 2006, Security Forces Flight Chief, Kadena AFB, Japan
7. January 2006 – April 2006, Trainee, Officer Training School, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
8. April 2006 – April 2007, Executive Officer, Program Management & Integration Directorate, Los Angeles AFB, California
9. April 2007 – April 2009, Staff Officer, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles AFB, California
10. April 2009 – April 2010, Program Manager, Global Positioning Systems Wing, Los Angeles AFB, California
11. April 2010 – November 2011, Strategic Analyst, Plans & Programs Directorate, Los Angeles AFB, California
12. November 2011 – January 2013, Program Manager, C-17 Combined Program Office, Robins AFB, Georgia
13. January 2013 – July 2014, Executive Officer, C-17 Program Office, Robins AFB, Georgia
14. July 2014 - April 2016, Education Flight Commander, AFROTC Det 028, Prescott, Arizona
15. April 2016 – July 2018, Operations Officer, AFROTC Detachment 028, Prescott, Arizona
16. July 2018 – January 2019, Chief, Nuclear Plans & Programs, Pentagon, District of Columbia
17. February 2019 – June 2019, Executive Officer, Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence & Nuclear Integration, Pentagon, District of Columbia
18. July 2019 – June 2020, Student, Army Command & General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
19. June 2020 – May 2021, Assistant Operations Officer, AFROTC Detachment 805, College Station, Texas
20. June 2021 – March 2022, Director of Staff, AFROTC Detachment 805, College Station, Texas
21. April 2022 – Present, Commander, AFROTC Detachment 025, Tempe, Arizona

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Force Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant April 6, 2006
First Lieutenant April 6, 2008
Captain April 6, 2010
Major April 1, 2016
Lieutenant Colonel January 1, 2021

(Current as of March 2023)

NOTE: National dues are collected separately -- if you are not a life member, Daedalians' HQ will bill you directly.)



Chandler, Arizona 85248

Enclose a check for Flight dues (\$25) and add any scholarship donations you would like to make. Please make your check out to “Willie Flight 82”

Total Enclosed: _____

Reminder:

Local Flight 82 dues are now \$25/yr

Luncheon Meetings are now \$35



DID YOU KNOW.....



**BEER AND WINE IS AVAILABLE
AT THE HOTEL FRONT DESK
DURING OUR LUNCHEONS**

When is a raffle really not a raffle??

**Reminder: Our raffle is really a method to
collect donations for our annual ROTC
scholarship fund.**

“Normal Donations” are always welcome too!!

Cash, Check, Memorials, etc.

**No size restrictions! A few years ago a member
gave us a \$10,000 donation!!**



!!SPEAKERS!!



"CALLING ALL SPEAKERS"

Do you have a presentation pent up inside you??

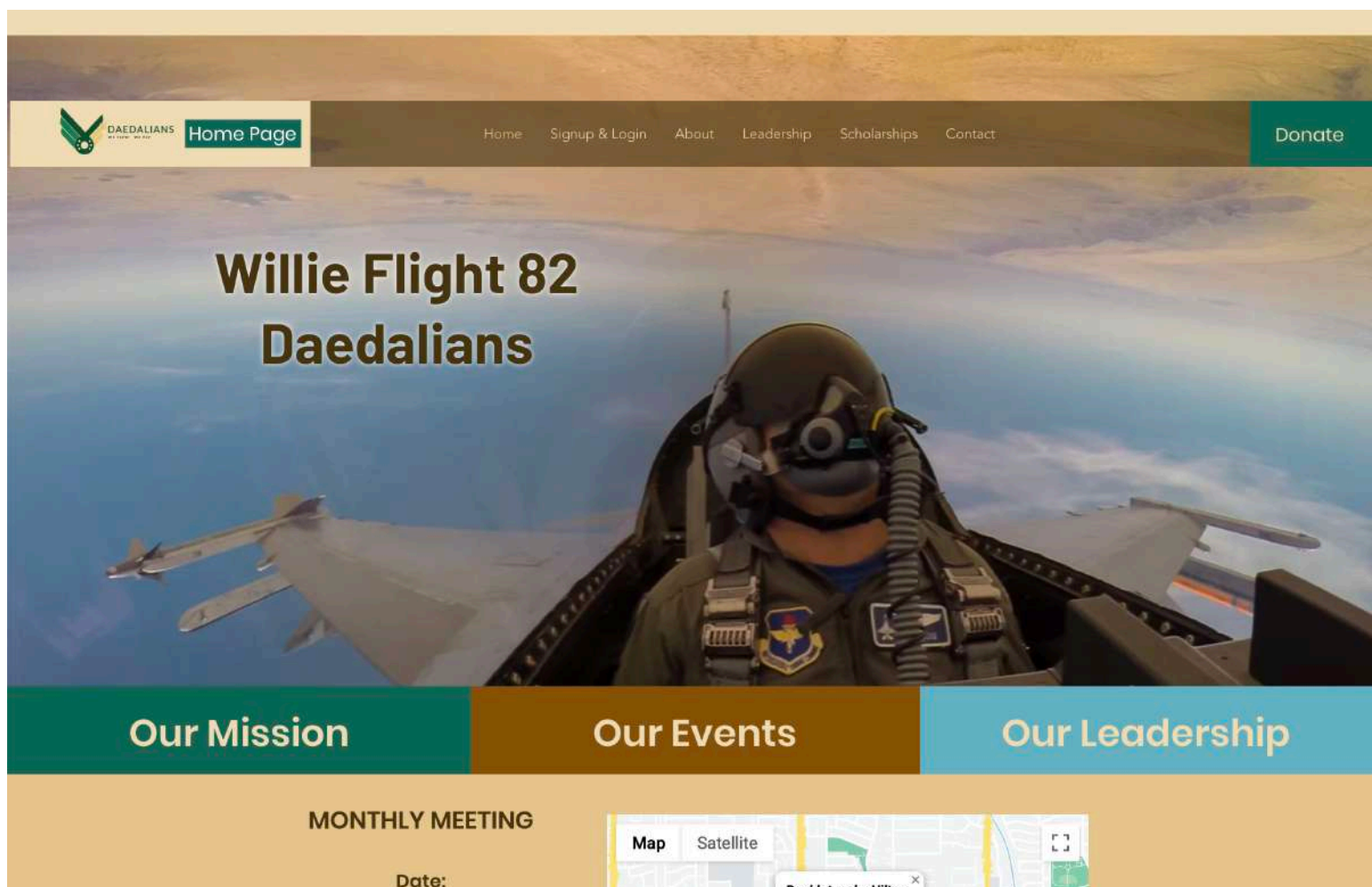
Do you have an interesting "I was There" tale of your aviation experiences?

Do you know of someone that does and might want to share it with our Flight?

Have you heard an interesting military aviation presentation at another organization you belong to?

We need YOUR help in generating speakers/ presentations for our future meetings?

**Don't forget to check out our
Flight website. We can
always use some more photos
of YOU and YOUR AIRCRAFT
looking your warrior finest!**



Col. Perkins Submitted this Article to Daedalians HQ Regarding Our September Speaker

Willie Flight 82 September 14th Meeting

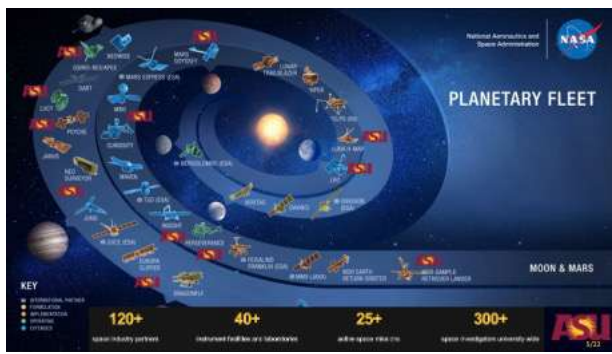
Dr. David Thomas, Executive Director of the Milo Space Science Institute, gave an outstanding presentation on International and New Space. Dr. Thomas has more than 25 years of experience building sustainable science and technology organizations for academic and defense sectors. He is focused on creating access to space and building capacity in connected ecosystems to maximize participation in space exploration around the world. He said that today the space sector is at an inflection point. For the cost of putting anything in space has decreased. For example, NASA's SLS cost \$151,851/KG and the Space X Falcon 9 cost \$2,700/KG. And now we're looking at the Space X Starship which is estimated to have a launch cost of just \$100/KG.



There is a Global need for access to space. The Milo Institute has 50 Plus active relationships in 30 plus countries.

There Are:

- 77 Space Agencies
- These agencies recognize space is part of the modern economy.
- Access to space is now inexpensive.
- Anyone can engage in space science.



Dr. Thomas described his Strategic framework for Space Diplomacy via three pillars:

Pillar 1, Diplomacy for Space

Connect emerging and aspiring space partners with U.S. expertise on national space policies and agency and governance structures, technological innovation, scientific collaboration, and equitable STEM education to **help ensure the United States remains the partner of choice**. This collaboration can also expand international scientific and technical capacity to support U.S. and international space program goals and societal benefits.

Pillar 2, Space for Diplomacy

Continue to expand the use of space-derived data and educational materials in pursuit of **equitable STEM [training]**.

Pillar 3: Empowering the Department Workforce on Space Diplomacy

He said that the U.S. spends more money on space than all the other countries combined.



There were many more topics covered in his presentation that I have not included such as Lunar Exploration, Apophis Pathfinder, the Milo Strategic Areas around the world. The presentation was very well received by the attending members . Dr Thomas extended an invitation for the flight to visit the Milo Institute and tour their laboratories and space specimens that they have on display. Sig Nelson, Willie Flight Captain, presented Dr. Thomas with a Daedalian plaque for his outstanding presentation on **“ International & New Space”**.

VA Hotlinks



Toolkit Provides Guidance for Veterans' Caregivers in Times of Disaster

In partnership with VA, the [Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers \(RCI\)](#) created a new toolkit suited to the special needs of caregivers. The toolkit, which is free to download, features plans, advice, insight and conversation prompts with customizable checklists designed to create a plan for Veterans' caregivers in times of emergency and disaster.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Film Highlights How VA Technologies are Benefiting Veterans

The short film, "Beyond the Uniform: Vets Driving VA Digital Experiences," gives a glimpse into how VA's technologies are revolutionizing Veterans' digital experiences and opening doors to unparalleled access to health care and benefits. Four Veterans share their personal experiences in the film.

[WATCH](#)



Next PACT Act deadline Sept. 30: Direct Health Care Enrollment

Veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never enrolled in VA health care and left the military between Sept. 11, 2001, and Oct. 1, 2013, are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care through the PACT Act. This special enrollment period ends at 11:59 p.m. local time on Sept. 30, 2023. [APPLY NOW!](#)

Aviation News



AFA NEWS: Collaborative Combat Aircraft Will Be 'In A Lot of Places,' Air Force General Says

By Laura Heckmann, AFA news
NATIONAL HARBOR, Maryland — To confront potential threats in the Indo-Pacific, Pacific Air Forces is focused on expanding agile combat employment — an operational scheme to develop network of small bases and facilities. One component of the scheme is the collaborative combat aircraft, or CCA, and a top Air Force official said a lot are coming.

Podcast: The Latest On The B-21 And The U.S. Air Force

By, Brian Everstine Jen DiMascio Garrett Reim, Aviation Week

Listen in as Aviation Week editors discuss NASA's recent contract awards to study technology for high-speed airliners flying faster than Mach 2—and the one supersonic project that is still pushing forward, Boom Supersonic.





[Leonardo offers first look at Proteus Rotary Wing UAS concept design](#)

(Breaking Defense) Once a final design architecture has been finalised, Leonardo plans on flying a two- to three- ton RWUAS demonstrator for the first time “in the middle of this decade” in hopes of supporting the UK Royal Navy’s Future Maritime Aviation Force (FMAF) agenda. [Read More](#)



DefenseNews WEEKLY

[Vital VA deadline and the latest aviation tech | Defense News Weekly Full Episode 9.16.23](#)

Member Memory Pictures

Steve Mefford

A shot from back
in 1980-1981



**What Did You Fly?
Got any Pictures? Hero
Pictures?**

Kurt Gearhart, fellow Willie Flight member and Master Webmaster, has been diligently working to vastly improve our web site. He has asked for photos of our members with the airplanes they flew. We would like you to send photos to both him at kurtgearhart@mac.com and Bill Follette, Newsletter Editor, at bill@strategicquality.com

Art Stark

F-4 Phantom II,
Killer Fighter Jet

Bill Follette

Special Ops
CH-3E

