



JANUARY 2008

NEWSLETTER

SUPPORTING THE INTERESTS OF AAFES, ITS RETIREES AND THE PEOPLE IT SERVES

The Gift

By Tom Harmon

Volunteerism is a hot topic, especially when you first retire, and frequently thereafter. In our Friday morning meetings with friends at a coffee shop, we often talk about the volunteer work that our friends do, and why they do it. We recognize the work that they do, but we don't tell them! But, I'm going to show you how you can fix this.

We have over 2,000 retirees who are members of the AREA. I would say at least 1,000 of these retirees do volunteer work. This work could be in churches, with the local police department, in homeless shelters, neighborhood watch, youth organizations, service clubs (i.e., Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, etc.), fire departments, senior centers, schools, women's and home-

AREA Community Service Award is a 'gift' you can give to volunteers to show that you care about them and to recognize what they do and its importance to the community

less shelters, suicide "hotline", hospitals, PTA, Cub and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, coaching youth teams, and on and on and on.

The point is, a lot of people do a lot of volunteer work. It's been said that America is the most volunteer focused and giving country in the world. And, I believe it. For whatever reason, many people after they retire, want to give something back to the community. I think that it's an awareness that whatever success we've had, we never achieve it on our own. Other people have helped us one way or another, along the way. How easy it is to volunteer and give something back.

AREA has a program called the "Community Service Award" program. It's designed to recognize members who

do volunteer work. It's not only a recognition program, but a program that encourages people to continue their volunteer work. This is a "gift" that you can give to volunteers to show that you care about them and to recognize what they do and its importance to the community. Everyone enjoys recognition for the work that they do. Have you ever noticed what a sincere "pat on the back" will do for a child? The child knows that you know! It encourages them to do more. Adults are no different.

The term "Community" may refer either to the local area or to volunteer activities on a regional, state, national or even international scope. Each recipient of a Community Service Award receives a handsome certificate along with a letter signed by an AREA Board Member, expressing appreciation for the volunteer contributions made toward making our communities a better place to live and work. All you have to do is to fill out the form on page 9 of this Newsletter and forward it to AREA, P.O. Box 380614, Duncanville, Texas, 75138-0614. Nominations can also be made on-line by following the instruction on top of the form. Nominations can be made anytime, and nominations can be made by someone else, or even by self-nomination. The program is also open to active AAFES employees.

Give this "gift" today. You'll be glad that you did. And the recipient will be encouraged by knowing that other people see their accomplishments.



Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood, new AAFES Commander, sat down with Chuck Poffenbarger and Larry Phillips to discuss AREA and retiree programs. Chuck tells about the meeting on page 2, and you can read General Thurgood's biography on page 10.



CHUCK POFFENBARGER, PRESIDENT

AREA & Chapter Goings On

Bit O' This
Bit O' That

Welcome to the January 2008 edition of AREA's Newsletter, and the first month of Winter.

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in.
A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

- Bill Vaughan

December was a good month for AREA. There were five happenings that made the month memorable.

✓ **Community Service Program:** We revised the program for quarterly submission of nominations. You can now submit a Community Service Award Nomination form any time throughout the year. Award recipients are notified shortly after the completion of each quarter, i.e., just after March 31st, June 30th, September 30th and December 31st. Profiles will be featured in the follow-on editions of the AREA Newsletter and Exchange Post. They will also be posted to the AREA web site www.aafes.com/area. The important thing is to recognize people for what they have done, regardless of the time frame. So, go to the web site, or pages 8-9 of this edition, and read all about the program.

✓ **Briefing to the AAFES Commander:** Larry Phillips, Editor, AREA Newsletter, and I briefed Brig. Gen. Keith Thurgood on Friday, December 7th, on AREA and its programs. Gen Thurgood was pleased with the programs that AREA sponsors, especially the Scholarship and Community Service Award programs. Gen Thurgood also agreed to pen articles for the April and October editions of the Newsletter. (The Chief Operating Officer (COO), Mike Howard, has an article on page 11. He also contributes an article for the July edition of the Newsletter.)

✓ **Briefing with Sharon Chapman & Valerie Sanchez, Benefits Branch:** After the meeting with the AAFES Commander, we met with Sharon and Valerie to review our program for featuring retiree benefits and updates in the quarterly Newsletter. We discussed subjects that we felt would be of interest to retirees, and I promised to query chapter presidents for their input each quarter. It was a productive meeting, and we all renewed our commitment to ensure that current and complete benefits information is posted to our web site regularly, and included in the Newsletter each quarter.

✓ **North Texas Chapter (AREA) Christmas Party:** Annually, the North Texas chapter holds its Christmas party at the AAFES Skyline Club on the 6th floor of the Hq, AAFES building. This year it was on Friday, December 7th. It's always nice to see old friends again. My thanks to Corinne McQueen, chapter president, for the nice job she does putting on these events.

✓ **Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) Chapter Holiday Luncheon:** We were once again invited to the holiday luncheon sponsored by the DFW chapter of the American Logistics Association (ALA) at the Las Colinas Country Club in Irving, Texas. Joining Lina and me were Tom Gallagher, Scholarship Program Chairman, Don and Jeanne Streeter (Don is a past-president of AREA) and Roy and Linda Dean, both of whom worked in Information Systems (IS) before their retirement. In addition to the great luncheon and auction conducted by retired Cowboys Hall of Famer, Randy White, we were presented a check for \$15,000 for the Scholarship Fund. Rich Krug, chapter president, presented the check to Tom Gallagher.

I'll see you next in April, the first month of Spring.

Chuck

Membership Memo...

I want to thank all of you for continuing to be members. The newsletter is our link to each other. We all have separate lives, but we are family through AREA. So keep this in your mind as we go forward to keep AREA a viable source.

I want to encourage all of you that when you move and want your AREA Newsletter to reach your new address, please send in an address change.

AREA canceled the address return information from the Post Office a year ago as it was costing AREA 90¢ per returned newsletter. This was over and above the cost of the newsletter already mailed. I have also received some returned from overseas and that is more costly, so



your correct address is important to AREA. Also if I do not have your correct address and you are current with your dues, you will not be receiving your newsletter and may not know why. The reason is no current address!! For those of you who live overseas, I have no way of sending you a letter of notification that you are not receiving your newsletter if I do not have a current address.

I also am responsible for the Scholarship dues and responses to your checks coming in.

I will get you a note back within the month saying AREA received the check and a big thank you for keeping the AREA scholarship fund going. Please be patient as I do have a lot of other responsibilities in Duncanville. I also have to get the checks to our treasurer and that also takes a little time. Ken and I have volunteered ourselves into what feels like full employment again.

I do read all of the notes sent in when you renew your dues and many of them say a big thank you to all of us here in Duncanville/Dallas for volunteering to keep AREA going. I appreciate the notes. This is my answer to all of you to continue the big Thank You's, we appreciate them. The Board needs your comments; you are our link to keeping AREA alive and well.

I hope year 2008 brings happiness and health to you and your family

Pat Weaver, Membership Director



**AAAFES RETIRED
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**
The AREA Newsletter is published in
January, April, July and October

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Submit articles for the newsletter to the
editor by FAX, E-mail or use the news-
brief form in this issue. Newsletter
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YOUR AAFES BENEFITS...

AAFES retirees receive 2.3% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) with December annuity payments

Retirees receiving annuity payments on or prior to December 1, 2007 will receive a 2.3 percent Cost of Living Adjustment to their annuity. Retirees with annuity commencement dates after December 1, 2006, will receive a prorated COLA based on the following schedule:

Annuity Commencement Date	Their COLA % is:	Annuity Commencement Date	Their COLA % is:
Dec. 1, 2006 (and earlier)	2.3%	June 1, 2007	1.2%
January 1, 2007	2.1%	July 1, 2007	1.0%
February 1, 2007	1.9%	August 1, 2007	0.8%
March 1, 2007	1.7%	September 1, 2007	0.6%
April 1, 2007	1.5%	October 1, 2007	0.4%
May 1, 2007	1.3%	November 1, 2007	0.2%
		December 1, 2007	0.0%

The Cost of Living Allowance is payable beginning with the Dec. 1, 2007 annuity check.

Social Security COLA also going up 2.3%

Social Security beneficiaries in 2008 will receive an increase of 2.3 percent in the coming year's benefits, starting with December 2007 benefits, which are paid in January 2008. This is the smallest increase in four years.

Updating Your Personal Accident Insurance Beneficiary...

If you have Personal Accident Insurance (PAI), keeping your beneficiary information current is very important. Knowing who to contact for updating your beneficiary information and answering questions about your PAI is also crucial.

Who to Contact:

The Maksin Group- they are the program administrator of PAI for the AIG Group of Companies. The Maksin Group assists AAFES retirees with PAI information.

If you need to update your beneficiary information or have questions about your PAI coverage you can contact the Maksin Group at:

1-866-506-1561;
or

(b) Maskin Group
P.O. Box 677
Pennsauken, NJ 08110-0677

YOUR AAFES BENEFITS...

Aetna Health Connections...Helping You to Manage

Aetna Health Connections is a disease management program implemented in 2007 for DoD NAF Health Benefit Plan members. The program expanded our initial disease management program from two chronic conditions to 30.

The goal of the program is to help you reach your own best health even with a chronic disease by providing information and wellness coaching through specially trained registered nurses. The service is voluntary, confidential and available at no additional cost.

The Aetna Health Connections disease management program can help you:

- Get the most appropriate treatment and preventive care for your individual needs
- Understand how to follow your doctor's treatment plan
- Take charge of your own health and manage your chronic conditions well
- Make the changes necessary to reach your personal health goals
- Identify and manage your risks for other conditions

Getting started is easy. You may be identified for the program through:
Your physician or self referral

- Your request submitted through the Aetna Navigator (www.aetna.com)
- Aetna's patient management staff or systems
- Medical and pharmacy claims data

If you are an Aetna member and are already managing a chronic condition, or if you think you are at risk for one, please don't feel you have to wait for Aetna to contact you. You may contact Aetna at 1-866-269-4500.



Aetna Health Connections is an investment in your well-being. Please take advantage of the benefits offered through this program and begin taking control of your health today.

SUPPORT FOR 30 CONDITIONS

Vascular

- Congestive heart failure
- Diabetes (adult or pediatric)
- Coronary artery disease
- Peripheral artery disease
- Hypertension
- Cerebrovascular disease/stroke

Pulmonary

- Asthma (adult and pediatric)
- COPD (chronic obstructive Pulmonary disease)

Orthopedic

- Osteoporosis
- Rheumatoid arthritis

Oncology

- Breast cancer

- Lung cancer
- Lymphoma/Leukemia
- Prostate cancer
- Colorectal cancer

Gastrointestinal

- GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease)
- Peptic ulcer disease
- IBD (Crohn's disease & ulcerative colitis)
- Chronic hepatitis

Neurologic

- Geriatrics
- Migraines
- Seizure disorders
- Parkinsonism

Other

- Hypercoagulable state
- Chronic kidney disease
- Sickle cell disease (adult & pediatric)
- Cystic fibrosis
- End stage renal disease
- HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)
- Low back pain



Apply for an AREA Scholarship



**LAST YEAR YOUR AAFES RETIRED EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION (AREA) PLANNED 12 AWARDS FOR \$36,500 BUT BASED ON THE QUALITY OF APPLICATIONS INCREASED THAT AMOUNT TO 19 AWARDS FOR 47,000. AREA PLANS 12 AWARDS OF \$36,500 IN 2008, AND MAY AGAIN CONSIDER ADDITIONAL AWARDS BASED ON RECEIVED APPLICATIONS. BUT IF YOU DON'T APPLY YOU CANNOT WIN... AREA LOVES TO RECOGNIZE AAFES FAMILY WINNERS!!! WANT TO LEARN MORE??? GO TO:
www.aafes.com/area**

DALLAS – If you have a college-bound senior in high school, or work for AAFES yourself and are a college bound high school senior, the AAFES Retired Employee Association (AREA) may be able to help you get some extra cash for academic related expenses. Every year, the AREA Scholarship Program provides scholarships for the first year of college. AREA scholarship eligibility is based on personal as well as academic criteria. The final date for submitting an Application is March 31, 2008.

Want to learn more about these scholarships?

Use one of these:

1. **AREA's web site:** Get AREA scholarship program details and the *Application for Scholarship* form by clicking on Scholarships at www.aafes.com/area.
2. **Email:** Send a message to area_scholarships@tx.rr.com.
3. **Letter:** You may also obtain information by sending a letter to:

AREA Scholarship
7045 Rembrandt Dr.
Plano, TX 75093

4. **From the Exchange Post:** E-mail the Exchange Post at exchangepost@aafes.com or write to the Post at AAFES, P.O. Box 660202, ATTN: CS-PA, Dallas, TX 75266-0202.

*We're AAFES people helping AAFES people...
it's the right thing to do!*



2008 AREA Scholarship Program **AAFES**

In 2007 AREA awarded 19 scholarships totaling \$47,000. The Board initially approved twelve scholarship awards (\$36,500) but the Scholarship Committee asked the board to approve seven additional \$1,500 awards based on the quality of the applications received. The board unanimously endorsed the proposal. It is plain to see that the AREA BOD has built flexibility into its scholarship program and carefully reviews and endorses awards over and above plan when justified.

At its November 30th meeting the AREA BOD approved scholarship awards for 2008:

- One \$5,000 - Designated the "Marilyn Iverson Scholarship" ...
- One \$5,000 - Undesignated
- One \$4,000 - Undesignated
- Nine \$2,500 - Undesignated

Twelve scholarships totaling \$36,500

So how many scholarships has AREA awarded over the years? I am proud to tell you that 181 deserving students have garnered \$299,795 in awards to since the AREA scholarship program's inception in 1985.

How does AREA support such an ambitious program? It does so through the support of industry partners and from many within our own ranks who choose to contribute to the program or even recognize loved ones with donations to the AREA Scholarship fund. Industry support from and individual donations are key factors to the program's past and future success.

2007 was a banner year for the AREA Scholarship Program:

- 46 applications - The highest participation rate since the program began.
- 25 applicants met AREA criteria - The most ever in a single year.
- 19 awards were made - The most ever in a single year.

How does the scholarship evaluation process work?

1. Each application is screened to determine if it meets minimum requirements - "AAFES Employee, Son or Daughter" and minimum academic criteria.
2. All qualifying applications have individual information masked to assure anonymity throughout the evaluation.
3. Qualified applicant files are reviewed privately by each member of the evaluation committee.
4. Each committee member ranks qualified applicants using academic achievement, awards, school and outside activity participation, letters of recommendation and finally, an essay themed on why "...I deserve this scholarship..."
5. All scores are then aggregated, ties broken and the award roster finalized.
6. The AREA President is given the list of awardees and sends each a letter detailing his/her AREA scholarship.

The 2008 evaluation committee has five AREA/AAFES members who voluntarily take time and apply exceptional judgment to the evaluation process.

Participation in the 2007 AREA Scholarship Program was exceptional, and I expect 2008 to be even better...So if you know a qualifying high school senior entering his or her first college semester in the 2008, make sure an AREA Scholarship application is sent in.

The application period runs from January 1st to March 31, 2008. Full details can be found on the AREA web site at www.aafes.com/area... We love to award monies to deserving students!!!

Tom Gallagher
Director, AREA Scholarship Program

*We're AAFES people helping AAFES people...
it's the right thing to do!*



Community Service Awards



I. AREA Program. Every year we recognize AREA members, AAFES Associates and their spouses who are making unselfish efforts towards the betterment of their communities with an AREA Community Service Award. A listing of awards since 1979 is available on the AREA website.

The term "Community" may refer either to the local area or to activities on a regional, state, national or even international scope. Each award recipient receives a certificate, along with a letter signed by AREA, expressing appreciation for the contribution made toward making our communities a better place to live and work.

Each Chapter Community Service Award Chairperson seeks out AREA members, AAFES Associates and spouses who volunteer their time for the community, and sees that their contributions are recognized by sending a completed nomination form to AREA. Nominations may also be submitted for collective recognition of chapter, exchange (or branch/unit) community service accomplishments.

In addition, AREA members and AAFES Associates may nominate other AREA/AAFES members and spouses for their accomplishments and, if not shy, themselves for their own community achievements.

You can submit a Community Service Award Nomination any time throughout the year. Award recipients are notified shortly after the completion of each quarter, i.e., just after March 31st, June 30th, September 30th and December 31st. Profiles will be featured in the follow-on editions of the AREA Newsletter and Exchange Post. They will also be posted to the AREA web site www.aafes.com/area. The important thing is to recognize people for what they have done, regardless of the time frame.

There are two ways to submit a Community Service Award Nomination to AREA:

- Print 'n mail. Complete the Community Service Award Nomination form and mail it to the address on the top of the form; or,
- Send via e-mail. Complete the online e-mail form and click on SUBMIT to send the application to the AREA Newsletter Editor.

Each award recipient receives a certificate, along with a letter signed by AREA, expressing appreciation for the contribution made toward making our communities a better place to live and work. For AAFES Associates: A copy of the AREA letter and certificate are forwarded to your servicing personnel office for file in your official personnel folder.

II. Local Chapter Program. A Community Service Award certificate for chapter use is available for recognition of chapter members throughout the year. This certificate is separate from the one used for the AREA program. Open the file, type the name of the person being recognized and chapter official signing the certificate, and then print the certificate. If the individual is a member of AREA, we recommend submission to AREA for consideration under that program, also.



Community Service Award Nomination For Community Service Accomplishments



Help us recognize people who support their communities...it's the right thing to do!

✓ Use this form to nominate AREA members, AAFES Associates and their spouses for AREA Community Service Awards for their commitment to their communities. You can submit this form any time throughout the year. Mail this completed form to: AREA, P.O. Box 380514, Duncanville, TX 75138-0614, or complete the form on the AREA web page, www.aafes.com/area, and submit your nomination online. (Program details are listed in the Community Service link on our website.) Award recipients are notified shortly after the completion of each quarter, i.e., just after March 31st, June 30th, September 30th and December 31st. Profiles will be featured in the follow-on editions of the AREA Newsletter and Exchange Post. They will also be posted to the AREA web site.

✓ Each award recipient receives a certificate, along with a letter signed by AREA, expressing appreciation for the contribution made toward making our communities a better place to live and work. For AAFES Associates: A copy of the AREA letter and certificate are forwarded to your servicing personnel office for file in your official personnel folder.

Form Rev 12/07

Period of time covered	From _____	To _____
------------------------	------------	----------

Is this a one-time project?	Yes _____	No _____
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If not a one-time project, what year did project start?

Details of work done (how, where, why, what): (Use additional sheets, if desired)

Estimated number of hours spent on project during this period?	_____ Hours
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Funds raised to support project:	\$_____ Given to:
----------------------------------	-------------------

Contributions made other than time:

Publicity received for this work (attach examples, if available):

Awards received for this work (attach examples, if available):

Additional information:

Submitted by: (Print name)	(Signature)	(Date)
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Phone #:	E-mail Address:
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TO WHOM AND WHERE SHOULD WE MAIL THE COMMUNITY SVC AWARD CERTIFICATE AND LETTER?	
Print Name:	Phone #:
Mail address:	City/State/Zip:
E-mail address:	Fax #:

AAFES Associates: Please provide the address of the HRM office where your official personnel folder is maintained.

Date Received/AREA Action / Comments:

AREA Committee Chairperson: Richard Fregoe	Date:
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Area President: Chuck Poffenbarger	Date:
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Brigadier General Keith L. Thurgood **Commanding General, Army and Air Force Exchange Service**

Brigadier General Keith L. Thurgood assumed duties as the Commanding General and CEO of the Army and Air Force Exchange in August 2007. Prior to his current assignment he was deployed as the Commanding General, 143rd TRANSCOM (Forward) and Deputy Commanding General, 377th Theater Support Command (Forward) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with subsequent assignment as the Director of Movements, Distribution and Transportation, Combined Forces Land Component Command Kuwait. In this role he was responsible for the reception and on-ward movement (deployment / redeployment) of personnel, unit equipment and all sustainment supplies for U.S. and Coalition forces in the Theater of Operations. General Thurgood is a native of Ogden, Utah. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Transportation Corps, after earning a baccalaureates degree from Brigham Young University, in August 1981, where he was a ROTC scholarship award winner, Distinguished Military Graduate, and the recipient of the George C. Marshall Leadership Award.

During his over 25 years of service, he has been assigned to a variety of command and staff positions, including command at company, battalion, brigade levels and General Officer level. His overseas assignments include a long tour in Germany and multiple training assignments in Japan and Korea.



Previous assignments include Assistant Division Command (Operations), 95th Division (Training), Brigade Commander, 8th Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Battalion Commander, 2-382 (Logistics Support), 75th Division; Brigade S2/3, 4th Brigade, 95th Division; Executive Officer, 3-381, 75th Division; Motor Transportation Plans Officer, 96th Corps Support Command; Highway Traffic Engineer, 311th Movement Control Center; Motor Transportation Plans Officer 311th Corps Support Command; Support Operations Officer 4th Infantry Division; Company Commander, 4th Infantry Division; Battalion S2/3 Operations Officer, 4th Infantry Division; Exercise Plans Officer, HHC, 4th Transportation Command; Platoon Leader, 69th Transportation Company, Bremerhaven, Germany.

General Thurgood is a graduate of the Transportation Officer Basic and Advance Courses, NATO NBC Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Supply Management Officer Course, the Military Policy Orientation Course, the Observer Controller Certification Course and the U.S. Army War College. He holds an MBA from Boston University, a Masters in Strategic Studies, a PhD, a.b.d., in Organizational Management and Leadership from Capella University and professional certificates from the University of Tennessee and Northwestern University.

As a Citizen-Soldier, BG Thurgood is employed by PepsiCo, Inc. where he served as the Director of Strategy and Innovation for the supply chain and transportation team responsible for the development of supply chain and logistics strategies across a \$25 billion dollar enterprise. He has been an invitational speaker at various logistics forums.

General Thurgood has been awarded the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Star), German Army Proficiency Fitness Badge and the Parachute Badge.

General Thurgood currently resides in Plano, Texas with his wife Carol. He has five children; Heather, Aaron, Ryan, Lindsey and Trever, and one grandchild, Caden.



Look for General Thurgood's twice-yearly column in the AREA Newsletter, beginning in April 2008.

AAFES meeting or exceeding year's challenges, overcoming obstacles

By Mike Howard,
AAFES Chief Operating Officer



Happy Holidays AAFES Retirees! I hope this holiday season finds each of you well. A lot has happened since my last update in the AREA Newsletter. I informed you in the last edition about the challenging year ahead and the many obstacles to overcome. I'm very pleased to let you know that we are meeting, and in many cases exceeding, those challenges as the year progresses. While sales are flat compared to last year, earnings are up 18% year to date. October was another great month for AAFES. Earnings are up 16% for October compared to a year ago. We are poised to finish out the year in very good financial shape.

AAFES has embarked upon initiatives to dramatically improve retail operations, including supply chain and merchandising excellence, including a major IT project, RETEK. We must become the best retailers in the world. We are also looking at new ways to be more relevant to the military and to generate additional revenue streams in the process.

We are in the final phase of implementing project Retek. Leveraging technology, transforming the supply chain and enhancing customers shopping experience are critical to future successes within AAFES. This transformation is known as Project Retek. Project Retek helps us accomplish this with Oracle Retail applications. In order to achieve this, our investment in Oracle Retail integrates suppliers, buyers, distributors, and stores that participate in the sales, production, and delivery of products to facilitate business performance, maximize customer satisfaction, and minimize supply chain costs.

Even with global transformation, exchange profits will continue to support a robust capital investment of more than \$1 billion combined for fiscal years 2006 through 2008. The exchanges continue to make healthy investments in information technology modernization.

AAFES' future vision includes expanding how associates think about the organization's roles and capabilities on military installations. Army and Air Force commanders want to develop truly modern, convenient, and desirable environments incorporating MWR, DECA, AAFES, privatized housing developers, Corps of Engineers, and others into their community planning. At the headquarters, we have created a directorate called Strategic Partnership. Its purpose is to position AAFES as a close strategic partner with installation commanders, as we develop and refine our abilities to build partnerships with private entities and private capital.

Third Party, Point of Sale activated gift cards are now a reality in all Exchanges. This program rolled out in September and has already resulted in \$7.5 Million dollars in sales. Third party gift cards make excellent and convenient gifts. Cross acceptance of gift cards is also an important part of the program. For example, a Marine deployed in Iraq could buy a gift card at the Field PX and redeem it at the Marine Corps Exchange upon returning to the United States.

Last, but certainly not least, take time this holiday season to remember the nearly 480 AAFES Associates who are serving in deployed locations around the world serving the best customers in the world.

As we head into 2008, I am excited about the possibilities for the future. The entire team is focused on improving customer service, improving the supply chain, driving down costs and maximizing the dividend which makes AAFES so relevant to our customers.

I wish you all a joyous and happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Mike

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Alamo Chapter supports Lackland Fisher House Program

At the November Luncheon of the Alamo Chapter Ladies Group, **Virginia Askew** briefed the ladies about the Fisher House Program. Fisher Houses are built by a joint effort of the Fisher House Foundation and the local community and located on military bases and VA Hospital grounds.

The ladies decided to support the Lackland AFB Fisher House program by donating monies to purchase items needed by the family members who stay in the houses free of charge while caring for their family member who is undergoing treatment for serious illness or wounds suffered during the Afghanistan and Iraq war efforts.

The ladies donated money for the project, and the management of the three Lackland AFB Fisher Houses was contacted to determine their most pressing need. Normally, paper goods and cleaning supplies are most needed; however, in this instance the ladies were told that the most pressing current need was new bed pillows for all 3 houses. On November 13, 2007 Virginia delivered 60 bed pillows to a very grateful group of managers and volunteers at Lackland Fisher House. Thanks to the thoughtful donations by the AREA ladies, the family members of the ill and wounded will all experience more restful sleep because of the new pillows.



FISHER HOUSE FOUNDATION, INC.

*"Dedicated to our greatest national treasure ...
our military service men and women and their loved ones."*



One of the three Fisher Houses at Lackland.



Ramona Lewis Asst Mgr Fisher House, Lackland, stacks the pillows donated by the Alamo Chapter Ladies Group.

Northern California Chapter--The Northern California Chapter came off the presses and began flying out the doors this fall. In October, the chapter newsletter reported about 75 cookbooks remained for \$10 each and credited "the two-person selling machine, **Birma Mares** and **Lisa Denny**," for selling 200 cookbooks! They were honored in November for their sales jobs—Birma was presented an appreciation certificate, cookbook charm and bead key ring; Lisa received a blue ribbon for her outstanding salesmanship. The November luncheon at Waffle Square included a lively holiday theme auction.

The cookbooks also sold well during a baked goods and cookbook sale at the McClellan BX in October. And some were still available for purchase as Christmas gifts at the Christmas Luncheon on December 16 at the Marriott Hotel in Rancho Cordova.

Aloha Chapter--The Aloha Chapter got an early start on the holiday season holding its annual Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 1 at the Pearl Country Club. A total of 63 members and guests attended this year renewing old acquaintances and filling the room with lots of Aloha and Holiday Wishes. A buffet of Shoyu Pork, Mahi-Mahi, Korean style fried chicken, rice, noodles, mixed vegetables, tossed mixed greens, cold cuts and fresh Island fruits was enjoyed by everyone with desserts and PuPu's (appetizers) furnished by the Chapter and committee members. **Bruce Bargfrede** and **George Turqueza** MC'd the evening's events of door prizes, games and entertainment. A "special reading" of Santa Has To Be A Woman was given by **Judy Bargfrede!!!** Grand prizes of \$100 each were won by **Ray Schneider, Rose Kawata** and **Nellie Murin**. The dinner for two at the award winning **Hilton Hawaiian Village Golden Dragon Restaurant** was won by **Milt Shimizu**. Gift certificates to the acclaimed cuisine of **Sam Choy's Diamond Head Restaurant** and his **Breakfast, Lunch and Crab Restaurant** was also generously donated as door prizes as well as the locally owned/operated **Hee Hing Restaurant** – voted by locals as the Best Chinese Restaurant in Honolulu.

During the open meeting, members were advised our chapter again donated \$200 this year to the AAFES Scholarship Fund and to the Honolulu Advertiser's Helping Hands Christmas Fund. New members **Karen Pupuhi** and **Dennis Keating** and his wife **Sandy**, were introduced and welcomed, as well as attending out of town guests, retired AAFES executive **Danny McDaniel** along with his wife **Brenda** and son **Patrick** who were visiting **Charlie & Shirley Kon**. Results of our election were announced and new officers for 2008-2009 will be: **Phil Roach**, President; **George Turqueza**, Vice President; **Pauline Ung**, Secretary.



Susie Wong



The Fearless Four are (l to r) Bruce Bargfrede, George Turqueza, Bill Allgire, and Phil Roach



Terry and Joe Ficocello



Charlie and Shirley Kon



Wendell Wong & Pat Watson



Tanya and Frances Hillhouse



Sand and Dennis Keating



Brenda and Danny McDaniel



Kuu Callahan and Pauline Ung



Glenn and Alice Schubert



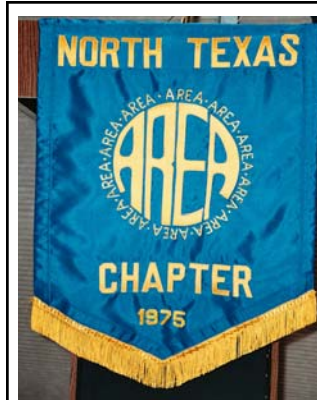
Bill McQueen, James Beachler, Ned Silva, Winston Kavanaugh, and Chuck Poffenbarger



William Burns and Norma Burns, Corinne McQueen, Chuck Poffenbarger



Dennis Jones, James Beachler, Christine and Phillip Menteer



North Texas Chapter— Chapter members dined and danced at the AAFES Skyline Club at Hq. AAFES on December 7 as we came together for our holiday celebration. Thanks to Chuck Poffenbarger for taking all these great photos!

—Corrine McQueen, President



Chuck Poffenbarger, Don Streeter, Lina Poffenbarger



Phillip and Christine Menteer



Lina Poffenbarger, Jeanne Streeter



Lina Poffenbarger, Margie Beachler, Martha Bradley



Hilde and Richard Doyle



Lina and Chuck Poffenbarger, HQ AAFES Skyline Club waitress Michelle



Lina and Chuck Poffenbarger, Ned and Elsa Silva

Tidewater awards *FIRST* and *LAST* \$1,000 scholarship

The true meaning of an AAFES family

The Tidewater Chapter presented Kaleigh Huddy with the chapter's \$1,000 scholarship at Dan Daniel Distribution Center (DDDC) in August. Kaleigh is no stranger to AAFES-DDDC as she worked at the DC in the Fashions Facility during DC's summer hire program. Her father, Preston Huddy, also worked at the DDDC until his promotion/transfer to LG HQ. More importantly, Kaleigh is a example of what the true meaning of an AAFES family means as she comes from a family of hard working associates—her grandmother, Dory Paterson, is a former AAFES employee, and her grandfather, Edward Stine, is currently working at the DC as a payroll assistant.

Kaleigh is attending Penn State seeking a degree in forensic science. She maintained a 3.75 grade point average in high school. Charmaine Rich of the Dan Daniel DC hosted the ceremony.

—Reporter: Ruth Stokes



Everybody gathers around the podium for a photo and to congratulate Kaleigh Huddy, holding the certificate, upon receiving the Tidewater Chapter's \$1,000 scholarship.

Tidewater Chapter worked long and hard to fund local scholarship

The AREA Tidewater Chapter Local Scholarship Program was established in 1999. It has taken our small group a long time to come up with an impressive amount of \$1000. Every year we would post a notice on all employee bulletin boards (LAFB, Ft. Eustis, Ft. Monroe & the DDC) in our area letting them know what amount was available beginning with the first \$250. No one ever applied so the amount would be carried over to the next year. When we finally reached the impressive sum of \$1,000, we received two applications, both from the Dan Daniel Distribution Center. It was a happy day for us and Kaleigh Huddy. After the award, members voted to discontinue the local scholarship program. In addition, the Tidewater Chapter has faithfully supported the AREA Scholarship Program and will continue to do so in the future.

—Ursula Foust, Secretary
AREA, Tidewater Chapter



Kaleigh Huddy receives the Tidewater Chapter's scholarship from Gwen Peace, Scholarship Chairman. Also participating in the ceremony is Jane Cutler President, left.



Kaleigh Huddy and her family, members of AREA's Tidewater chapter and representatives of the Dan Daniel Distribution Center gathered in the DDDC conference room to honor Kaleigh upon receiving the Tidewater \$1,000 scholarship.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The following telephone numbers are provided as a convenience to members wishing to contact certain HQ AAFES offices and the AAFES Federal Credit Union.

HQ SWITCHBOARD
(214) 312-2011

FOR RETIREMENT and GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS:
HQ. AAFES BENEFIT BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES (800) 519-3381

GENERAL COUNSEL:
COLONEL JOHN L. CLIFTON, USA (214) 312-3126

EXCHANGE POST:
BARBARA KIRSCH (214) 312 3831

SALES TABLOIDS:
DEBBIE WYLIE (800) 733-5142

ID CARD, PRIVILEGES
HR-L/H Servicing Personnel Office (214) 312-3330
ID Cards issued Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30-10 a.m.

DOD VEHICLE STICKERS:
DOD stickers are issued in AD from 7:30-11 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

AAFES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION: TOLL FREE SERVICE
NORTH AMERICA (800) 452-7333
UNITED KINGDOM 0800-89-7490
GERMANY 0130-81-1187

FOR OTHERS NOT LISTED:
PAT WEAVER (972) 780-9810

For other information, check out the AAFES Web site at: <http://www.aafes.com> and the AREA web site <http://www.aafes.com/area>

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE FORM

Type of Change (Check All Boxes Below That Apply)

Address <input type="checkbox"/>	Telephone <input type="checkbox"/>	FAX <input type="checkbox"/>
E-mail <input type="checkbox"/>	Marital Status <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>

Enter New Address in "Current Address" block BELOW and List Other Changes Here--

(Printed Name)	(Signature)	(Date)
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Check here if you would like to be put on the mailing list for future membership directories, which are published in even-numbered years and provide you a listing of names and addresses of AREA members.

TO: AREA (ATTN: Membership Director)
P.O. Box 380614
Duncanville, TX 75138-0614

CURRENT ADDRESS:

AREA SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION FORM

To: AREA
P.O. Box 380614
Duncanville, TX 75318-0614

From:

Telephone

This donation is (check one box below)

- | | |
|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of | (Name) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory Of | (Name) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An Annual Pledge* | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Send Card to:

NAME	
ADDRESS	
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	
TELEPHONE	

Amount of donation (check enclosed)

\$

* I wish to pledge \$ _____ each year to the AREA Scholarship Fund. My donation for the current year is enclosed.

Your donation will be acknowledged to both the donor and to the recipient or the survivor. All donations are income tax deductible.

DONOR NAME (Printed)

SIGNATURE

COMMENTS:



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SUPPORTING THE INTERESTS OF AAFES, ITS RETIREES AND THE PEOPLE IT SERVES

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supporting the interests of AAFES, its retirees and the people it serves



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Visit Our Web Site at www.aafes.com/area



Now's the time to add two resolutions to your 2008 list of things to do.

Resolution #1: Help someone go to college. Tell your AAFES friends who have high school graduating seniors about our scholarship program. Everything they need to know is on our web site at www.aafes.com/area

Resolution #2: Recognize someone for their efforts to improve their community. Give deserving people a pat-on-the-back by submitting their nomination for an AREA Community Service Award. The program and application form are on our web site at www.aafes.com/area

Visit our web site at www.aafes.com/area
"Quick and easy access to a wealth of information."

AREA... JUST FOR YOU

DUES ALERT!

Please check the expiration date below. If it reads "December 2007 (or earlier) your dues are PAYABLE. Dues are \$15 per year (effective April 1, 2002)— Please make the check payable to AREA.



AAFES RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 380614
DUNCANVILLE, TX 75138-0614

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