



RECON REPORT

AFA Miami #317

3rd Quarter FY 2009

June 26, 2009



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NEWS FLASH!
JULY 4TH BBQ (See PG.3)
Presidents Report (See PG.4)

Chapter Officers:

- **Michael Clark** **President**
305-926-7298 michael.clark@homestead.af.mil
- **Benny Benitez** **VP**
- **Robert Mitchell** **Treasurer**
- **Helga Laks** **Secretary**
- **Stanley Bodner** **Aerospace Education**

- **Michael Clark** **Communications**
- **John Rosser** **Government Relations**
- **Stan Bodner** **Leadership**
- **Benny Benitez** **Membership**
- **Carl Laks** **Veterans Affairs**

Executive Council Members:


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JAMES	CUNNINGHAM, III
PAUL	GILSON
JOHN	ROSSER
BERNARD	SCHUMACHER
COLLEEN	SULTIE
THEO	THEODOR, JR.

Air Force Association

- **EDUCATE** the public about the critical role of aerospace power in the defense of our nation
- **ADVOCATE** aerospace power and a strong national defense
- **SUPPORT** the United States Air Force and the Air Force Family.

Upcoming Events

- **July 4th** – General Membership Meeting @ the Miami Beach Coast Guard Station (See attached Flyer).
- **July 9th** – AFA Miami Council Meeting. Call Mike Clark @ 305-926-7298 for location & time.
- **July 11-12 – 2009 Florida State/Region Meeting.** Visit the AFA Florida website @ <http://afaflorida.org/> and scroll down to the bottom of the page for information.
- **August 6th - The Air Force (SOUTHCOM) Golf Tournament** at the Doral Resort/NEW Silver Golf Course. Call Mike Clark @ 305-926-7298 for further info.
- **August 13th** – AFA Miami Council Meeting. Call Mike Clark @ 305-926-7298 for location & time.
- **September 10th** – AFA Miami Council Meeting. Call Mike Clark @ 305-926-7298 for location & time.
- **September 19th** – Air Force Ball. More information to follow at a later date.
- All members are encouraged and welcome to attend any of the above mentioned events. Please RSVP ahead of time to ensure adequate availability of seating and to confirm the date, time and location of each event.



An invitation to
Greater Miami's Military Family
to celebrate **America's Birthday!**

South Florida's 11th Annual
JULY 4th PICNIC, BBQ
and FIREWORKS display

HOSTED BY THE

• AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION • NAVY LEAGUE • AUSA • MOAA

DONOR SPONSORS

• USAA • CHAMBER SOUTH M.A.C. • HMS HOST • ROASTERS 'N TOASTERS
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**FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL MEMBERS OF SOUTH FLORIDA'S
MILITARY FAMILY (INCLUDING CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES)**

- U.S. COAST GUARD • U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND • FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD
- SOC South • 482d FIGHTER WING (AF Reserve) • Det. 1, 125TH FIGHTER WING (ANG)
- MARINE CORPS RESERVE • RETIRED MILITARY • MEMBERS OF SPONSORING
VETERAN'S ASSOCIATIONS

FEATURING

FREE FOOD • REFRESHMENTS
MUSIC • SWIMMING • GAMES & FIREWORKS

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH

2:30 PM TO 9:30 PM

COAST GUARD BASE MIAMI BEACH

(off the McArthur Causeway at Terminal Island – 3rd traffic light on causeway)

A great place to watch the 4th of July fireworks displays from
Fisher Island and Bayside

COME ONE, COME ALL...

for a day of fun, food, swimming and games

*BRING YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND GUESTS.
CHILDREN WELCOME. (Bring bathing suits and towels)*

FREE HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS & SOFT DRINKS

COVERED DISHES WELCOME

Bring your special salad, vegetable, entree or dessert to share with our military

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

RSVP:

laksc@bellsouth.net or **305-972-3916**

Please call us to RSVP for yourself and each of your guests. The Coast Guard requires us to provide a manifest listing all visitors entering the base. This manifest will also help us assure adequate supplies of food and refreshments.

*Note: Non-military adult civilians who are invited guests of a military member, should have a photo I.D.
(Driver's License, Credit Card, etc.) available.*

We thank all of our corporate sponsors who help make this event possible.

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Jeff Tomlinson
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Chamber South Military Affairs Committee (M.A.C.)
Homestead / Florida City Military Affairs Committee (M.A.C.)
HMS Host (MIA) • Ship Supply • Roasters & Toasters

PRESIDENTS REPORT

BY MICHAEL CLARK
MIAMI CHAPTER PRESIDENT

First let me say, **Thank You** to all of you who kept me in your thoughts while being deployed. **It's great to be back.**

Annual July 4th BBQ and Celebration for the Military Family.

We have an important up-coming community-wide event with our 11th annual South Florida July 4th picnic at the Miami Beach Coast Guard Station (see attached flyer). The Miami chapter plays a leading role in this annual July 4th celebration for the military family in South Florida.

Our chapter started this event as a way to express South Florida's appreciation for the service and sacrifices made by all military personnel assigned to duties in South Florida. There is no admission charge, with all food and soft drinks **free**.

All chapter members (including our Community Partners) are invited to attend. Please RSVP as instructed in the flyer. We are in need of volunteers to help during the day's events. Of course, most volunteers will only be assigned shift duties requiring only a few hours of our time. To volunteer, contact Ted Kammire, our volunteer coordinator, at 1-303-810-5193 (Yes, it's long-distance), or e-mail him at teddyaa@aol.com

Good news for the award-winning Miami chapter.

Last week, the Miami Chapter was informed that your chapter has once again been selected as the Outstanding Medium-size Chapter in the state. This is an honor that belongs to every chapter member. At the same time I was informed that I was selected as the AFA Florida Member of the Year. This is the 2nd year in a row that a Miami chapter member was selected Florida M.O.Y.

Along with these awards we also have a few deserving chapter members who were awarded Exceptional Service Citations: Paul Gilson, Helga Laks, Robert Mitchell and LTC Theo Theodor. Congratulations to all!!!!

Other activities of interest for chapter members.

We have a few upcoming events that you may be interested in being part of. The AFA Florida State Convention is being hosted by the Falcon Chapter in Jacksonville on July 10-11. The location is downtown at the Wyndham Jacksonville River walk on the south bank of the St Johns River. If you have any interest in attending this event please contact me at 305-926-7298.

To raise money for the Air Force Ball (see below), an Air Force (SOUTHCOM) Golf Tournament will be held on August 6th at the Doral Resort's challenging (NEW) Silver Golf Course. Members and guests are invited to play as single, double or foursome players.

(Cost for golf and sponsorship packages to come). Please contact me if you are interested and I will point you in the right direction for further information.

Then, on September 19, the annual Air Force Ball (Celebrating AF's 62nd Birthday) will be held on at the Double Tree Miami Mart Hotel, 711 NW 7th Street. AFA Table Seating will be \$50* per guest * Special price established for AFA members. In past years, our chapter has reserved as many as 3 - 10 seat tables (all of them assigned favorable placement). This year's Air Force Ball will be co-hosted by Homestead Air Reserve Base and the Air Force Element at U.S. Southern Command. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet General Frazer, the new SOUTHCOM commander (see below), who is expected to attend.

Chapter community news and activities:

The chapter's scholarship foundation (South Florida Aerospace Scholarship Corp.) awarded over \$5000 to 5 local University of Miami AFROTC Cadets in May.



Miami Chapter VP, Stan Bodner with AS200 Rajendra Roopnarine

On another important front, your chapter also held the annual Miami-Dade Teacher Workshop on Feb 6, 2009 at George T Baker Aviation School. The workshop is for Science, Mathematics and Technology teachers (K-12).

This program gives teachers a day-long workshop containing helpful classroom projects and work plans designed to motivate students and demonstrate the important (and enjoyable) role the study of science, mathematics and technology plays in our nation, and the job market. Over 35 teachers signed up for the event, and another 20 persons were part of the group as workshop instructors or observers and AFA Miami members.

We thank, and gratefully acknowledge the following corporate supporters for their contributions to the workshop; Mitchell Wolfson Sr. Foundation (Arthur Hertz), Air Force Association National Headquarters, Streamline Solutions (David T Clark), George T. Baker Aviation School (Principal Sean Gallagan), Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (Michael Van Dusen), PITSCO (Catalog), and Miami-Dade Technology Department Head (Thomas Cummings).

The teachers took away an assortment of materials, including a 400 page binder put together by the Miami Chapter, gifts donated by Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, handouts, rocket launcher and enough supplies for 30 classroom students each that was put together by Mr. Thomas Cummings, and much more. The teachers were able to carry home all the supplies in a rolling cart donated by the Miami Chapter. Also, three PITSCO gift certificates were raffled off at the end of the day and a tasty breakfast and lunch were catered by “Gaby’s Catering”

Barrington Irving (Pictured below on right) with “Experience Aviation” was the guest speaker for lunch. Mr. Irving was not only the first African American to circumnavigate the world but also the youngest. Les Gold of NASA informed the teachers about NASA’s future plans and a few good stories about the Apollo program. The day finished off with all the teachers building, launching and calculating distance and trajectory of the rockets they built during the class.



Miami Chapter President Michael Clark (left) with Barrington Irving of “Experience Aviation”.



Instructing the Rocket class, Miami Dade Technology Dept Head, Mr. Thomas Cummings



Miami-Dade Teachers absorbing instructions



5-4-3-2-1- Launch!!!! All the teachers got a chance to launch!



Gen. Douglas M. Fraser receives the U.S. Southern Command guidon from Marine Gen. James E. Cartwright during the change-of-command ceremony

Air Force general assumes command at SOUTHCOM

For those who have not heard the good news, Air Force General Douglas Frazer was named the new SOUTHCOM Commander. The new 4-star general, assumed command this past Thursday June 25, 2009.



Community Partners



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