



MILE HIGH FLIGHT 18

Order of Daedalians

Newsletter

May 2006

Day to rally at Platte Valley is May 19

2006 Flight Schedule

Flight 18 normally meets on the third Friday of each month. Exceptions are announced in the newsletter and through the caller phone tree. Your caller should contact you via phone/e-mail 7-10 days prior to each meeting. If not, please advise Flight Adjutant Ron Smith.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Speaker/activity</u>
20 Jan	Aurora Hills*	BG Lassen, COANG
17 Feb	Aurora Hills*	Bombing of UA-629
17 Mar	Aurora Hills*	Paul Tibbets IV – B-2
21 Apr	Aurora Hills*	Ed Dwight, astr. trainee
19 May	Platte Valley	Lunch with wives
16 Jun	Aurora Hills*	E.C. Hoagland
21 Jul	Aurora Hills*	Bill Zinser-Severe Wx
18 Aug	Aurora Hills*	POW Mike McGrath
6 Sep (<i>Wed</i>)	JeffCo Airport	Lunch with wives
20 Oct	Aurora Hills*	TBA
17 Nov	Aurora Hills*	Ann Business Mtg
?? Dec	Aurora Hills*	Christmas Party

* Aurora Hills Golf Course Tin Cup Bar & Grill

Mitch Neff of 140th Wing named Flight 18 Distinguished Pilot/05

An Iraq war veteran F-16 pilot now assigned to the 140th Wing of the Colorado Air National Guard, Maj Mitchell “BC” Neff will take home the Daedalian Flight 18 Distinguished Pilot Award for 2005. Presentation of the Award by Flight Captain Bob Mock is set for Sunday 7 May at Buckley AFB during a monthly COANG drill weekend.

“BC” was recognized by BGen H. Michael Edwards, Commander 140th Wing, for his outstanding performance

See **NEFF** - page 2, column 2

Lafayette Foundation again hosting annual Flight 18 picnic with wives

Platte Valley is like a box of chocolates—you never know what you’re gonna get! Take last year as an example. Bonus flight demonstrations by radio controlled model aircraft resulted in many thrills plus a landing crack-up (below left) and Bob Resling giving a tow job to an RC jet model “F-15” (below right).



There’s always plenty to see at Platte Valley. New this year, says Lafayette Foundation President Andy Parks, is a nearly finished Fokker D-VIII and other new projects, including a SPAD 7.

Two SE-5as and the Fokker DR.I (red tri-plane) are expected to fly prior to the 11:00 a.m. social hour. Also a good chance of a YAK and Swift fly-by, in addition to whatever member-owned aircraft might be flown in. Lunch will feature BBQ pork tenderloin, rice, salad and desert. Cost is \$15 per person.

After lunch, Andy will give a talk about WWI ace Frank Luke, famous for downing four enemy aircraft and fourteen enemy observation balloons before being forced down, then gunned down by German troops, on 28 Sept 1918 at age 21. (Just a reminder that donations to the Museum are always welcome.)

See **MAP/DRIVING DIRECTIONS** to Platte Valley, page 6.

Mock 2



Fellow Daedalians,

Here is attempt number two at keeping you posted.

Officers Goals for 2006 were outlined in the February Newsletter. Well ahead on recruiting new members. We will fund four \$900 scholarships to ROTC cadets thanks to Bill Greener's diligence and perseverance!

The Membership Committee has made its report and many thanks to Tony Zang and the members' contributions. The subject of Flight 18 Life Memberships (*see page 3*) is open for discussion. Seek out one of the officers for further info. We will bring it to the floor as an official piece of new business during our business meeting in November.

I hope you all are giving serious consideration to attending the National Convention in June. I have already finalized my reservations. It looks like a great program and the prices are certainly reasonable!

Continued column 2

McCrillis hospitalized

Long time Flight member George McCrillis and his wife Lorraine were hospitalized at Porter Adventist in early March as the result of viral infections that evolved into serious cases of pneumonia.

While Lorraine recovered and left the hospital after about a week, George continues to battle the shutdown of his kidneys, spending time in intensive care on a ventilator and undergoing kidney dialysis. Our hopes and best wishes to George and his family.

Thanks to Ed Huber and George's daughter Chantelle for their regular e-mail updates to the Flight.

How about our guest speakers so far. BGen Emil Lassen gave us a view from the USAF Chief of Staff, Andrew Field shared his views on a terrorist bomber, and Lt Col Paul Tibbets covered the heritage of USAF bombers from the Enola Gay to the B-2. We are looking for a guest speaker for the October meeting.

Our May meeting will be with wives and guests at Platte Valley Airpark, where Andy Parks and the Lafayette Foundation will host. You don't want to miss this one.

Lastly, I really look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings. We are always looking for suggestions to improve the activities.

Volabamus Volamus

Bob

Robert K. Mock, COL, USAF (Ret)
Flight Captain

NEFF *from Page 1*

as an F-16 Mission Commander flight lead during Operations Iraqi Freedom, Northern Watch and Southern Watch. Known for his tactical acumen, he commanded a mission that carried out the first ever night employment of the Joint Direct Attack Munition.



"BC" Neff

He also distinguished himself as "B" Flight Assistant Commander, supervisor of flying operations and as Project Officer for a number of special projects.

Hand picked for his current assignment as the 140th Wing Weapons and Tactics Officer, he is responsible for honing the tactical proficiency of all squadron and staff pilots in the wing.

As the Mile High Flight 18 Distinguished Pilot for CY 2005, Mitch will receive the DPA crystal eagle trophy, a framed certificate and a DPA Citation sent by formal letter endorsed by

Gov Bill Owens, The Adjutant General of Colorado and BG Edwards. He has also been invited to join The Order of Daedalians and Flight 18. Should he choose to do so, the Flight will pick up the tab for his first-year's dues.

Mitch and his wife Beth have two children—one of each flavor—and reside in Aurora.



Flt Cpt Bob Mock and Vice Flt Cpt Don Neary flank BG Mike Edwards in his office where they met 23 Feb to initiate the Distinguished Pilot selection process.

DD-214 available on line

U. S. veterans can now access their DD-214, and other military personnel records, on-line. The National Personnel Records Center has provided a website for accessing military records: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

You may use this system if you are a military veteran, or the next of kin of a deceased former member of the military. The next of kin can be any of the following: surviving spouse who has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180 which can be downloaded from the online web site.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

Life Memberships proposed for Mile High Flight 18

Last year the daughter of one of Flight 18's long-time members, acting on his behalf through a Power of Attorney, cancelled his membership in the Flight and in the Order of Daedalians. No longer would he pay dues to either organization and, thus, "fritter away" his estate. But, suddenly after many years—and presumably without his knowledge—he was no longer a Daedalian.

Ties to his military aviation fraternity were severed by a well-intended daughter who failed to appreciate the importance to him of this long time association. As a consequence, when he eventually takes his final flight, his surviving brothers will be denied the opportunity to properly acknowledge his accomplishments as a military flier by means of a "Final Flight" article, typically cherished by a deceased Daedalian's family members. Also, we may or may not ever learn of his passing and schedule of services.

Had this individual taken advantage of the Daedalian Life Membership program, he would not be paying annual dues to National, yet would have remained a Daedalian to the end. And had Flight 18 had a Flight Life Membership program in place as other flights do and had he taken advantage of it, he would have remained a Flight 18 member to the end as well. A "Final Flight" article would have been written about him and provided to his family as a keepsake. And a donation would be made in his name to the Flight Scholarship Fund, a donation eventually matched by the Daedalian Foundation.

While Flight Life Memberships (FLMs) have never been offered by Mile High Flight 18, there is now a proposal on the table to do just that. Flight members will be asked to vote on the proposal at our annual business meeting in November.

If adopted, the program would enable Daedalian Life Members to also become Flight Life Members by pre-paying their Flight dues for life at discounted rates, similar to but considerably lower than the rates charged for National Life Memberships. FLM rates would be linked to the current level of annual Flight dues and then discounted.

The program as proposed would be optional and easy to manage. Most importantly, it would eliminate the need for Flight Life Members to pay annual dues and would reduce the burden on the Flight of expending extraordinary efforts to collect them.

Such programs have proven highly beneficial to other flights and their members for many years. As an example, Falcon Flight 11 in Colorado Springs has offered

FLMs for over 25 years and enthusiastically endorses the practice.

Additional details will be provided in the August newsletter. Meanwhile, if you have questions about the proposed program, members of the Flight Officer staff should be able to answer them or get the answers for you. Questions may also be addressed to the editor of this newsletter, the author of the FLM proposal.

Welcome Aboard



Michael G. O'Dair, Capt, USAF (Sep)

Born in Waltham, MA in March 1945, Mike was commissioned in 1967 and earned his Air Force pilot's wings at Randolph AFB, TX the following year.

Then it was off to Hurlbert to learn to fly the O-2. Throw in a little basic survival training at Fairchild and jungle survival training in the P.I. and you have someone on his way to a SEA FAC tour.

Soon Mike found himself on the tarmac at Nakon Phenom ("Naked Fanny") RTAFB, Thailand, where he would rack up some 1700 hours flying FAC missions over Laos in the O-2A and OV-10.

Returning to CONUS, he was assigned to Peterson AFB in Colorado Springs flying VIP and logistics missions in the T-39 for NORAD and the Air Force Academy. He separated from the Air Force in 1972, shortly thereafter beginning a lengthy career with Merrill Lynch which continues today.

Mike and his wife Amy live in Monument. Their son Mike, Jr. is a pilot with Frontier, daughter Shannin is in sales at KYGO Radio in Denver, and a second daughter, Kimberlee, is an astrophysics student at C.U.



Three Master Pilots. Last December the FAA honored three Colorado pilots with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. Receiving the award at the AFA O'Club were Harold "Hoot" Gibson of Flight 11, Robert Beabout of Flight 18 (below center) and Mr. Dean Baird. With this award the FAA recognizes pilots who have maintained safe



flight operations as pilots for 50 or more consecutive years.

FAA
Photo

Flight 18 grants four ROTC scholarships

The Flight 18 Scholarship Committee and the general membership have voted unanimously to grant \$900 scholarships to each of four local area ROTC cadets.

The Flight's total scholarship donation of \$3,600 is up \$600 from each of the two prior years. While matching funds have been requested from the Daedalian Foundation, current Foundation policy limits the amount it will match to \$2000 per flight. At that rate, each student would receive a total grant of \$1,400 (\$900 plus \$500).

The 2006 Flight 18 scholarship recipients are:

Mark R. Riesenberg, a Junior majoring in Meteorology and Mathematics at Metro State College, is an AFROTC cadet at CU Boulder. He has a 3.81 grade point average, one of the highest in his ROTC class. Mark was on the Deans List at the University of Kentucky in Spring 2003 and on the National Dean's List in 2004, 05 and 06.



His awards include the Leon "Stormy" Rottman Scholarship 2005-06; the Chancellor's List 2004-05; the Provost's Honor Roll Spring 2004 and Spring 2005; the Sons of the American Revolution AFROTC Award Spring 2004; and an AFROTC Express Scholarship Fall 2004 to the present.

He's a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society, the American Meteorological Society, and the Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society. Cadet Riesenber has shown a strong pilot aptitude by his score of 88 in the "Pilot" section of the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test. He currently is a student pilot with Air West Flying Club at Jefferson County Airport. With 21 hours in the Cessna 172, he continues to work towards his private pilot license. He has successfully passed an

FAA physical examination. Cadet Riesenber is highly motivated to become a career military pilot and to continue his higher education.

Patrick John Shanks, AFROTC, is a Junior at Colorado State University. He has a major in Business Management and a GPA of 3.43.

Patrick was on the Dean's List in the Spring of 2005 with a 4.0 GPA. He also received the ROTC Commander's Academic Award.

His Athletic activities include the End of Year Award as Resident Assistant in 2004-06. He was the intramurals playoff Captain in 2003-06.

Patrick is the President on Campus of "Justice for All". He tested 84/88 on the pilot/navigator AFOQT, and has scored 100 points on all physical fitness tests he has taken as a cadet.

He is an active member of the Arnold Air Society and the Scabbard & Blade, an ROTC service society. He enjoys counseling and mentoring his fellow cadets. His goal after graduation is to become a career Air Force pilot. *(Photo not available.)*

Brent A. Nyheim, is an NROTC Midshipman and a Senior at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He will graduate in December of 2006. Majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Applied Mathematics, he has a GPA of 3.72.



He has been on the Dean's List every semester, and received at least one Engineering award or scholarship each year he has attended the University. He is a member of the CAP.

His extracurricular activities include: the Bataan Death March Marathon where he took seventh place individually, and was on the third place team. He took first place in the Colorado Outward Bound Relay in 2005. He was the Intramural Dodgeball Season Champion in the Fall of 2004.

His employment includes Finite Element Analysis with Quartus Engineering. As a CAP Color Guard, his

team took second place in the Pacific Regional Competition in 2001-02.

His number one goal is to become a naval fighter pilot and a Blue Angel. Brent is highly motivated to contribute to and improve the aerospace and aeronautical industry.

Sean Michael Curnow is an Army ROTC cadet and a Junior at Colorado State University with a major in Psychology and minors in Sociology and Military Science. His GPA is 3.4.

Sean was on the College of Natural Science Dean's List in the Spring and Fall of 2005. He is a member of the Scabbard and Blade, and participated in the Ranger Challenge in 2003, 04, and 05, where his team achieved an overall second place.

He successfully completed the Army ROTC Bataan Death March in 2005. His athletic activities include intramural football as a member of the championship teams in 2003, 04, and 05. He has also participated in Intramural Basketball for the last three years.

Sean graduated from the Airborne School in August of 2005 as a paratrooper. His major career objective is to become an Army Apache, or Blackhawk helicopter pilot.

(Photo not available.)

Thanks to Scholarship Chairman Bill Greener...

...for his tireless efforts each year on behalf of the Flight and our scholarship recipients, who are always extremely grateful for the financial assistance they receive. He also represents us in awarding Daedalian certificates and medals to deserving JROTC students at 14 Denver area high schools.

Aurora Central's Cadet Charles Garcia receiving the 2006 Daedalian AFJROTC Achievement Award.





Ed Benson



Ed Dwight



Bob Ritter



Dave Underwood



Larry Wagner



Richard Williams



Chuck Wilson

Introducing eight new or prospective members. Word must be getting out that Mile High Flight 18 is a pretty good outfit, if the current number of new and prospective members is any indication. The gentlemen pictured above have (1) applied for membership in the Flight and The Order of Daedalians, (2) transferred to the Flight as active Daedalians, or (3) been provided an application and invited to join. Regret that no photo is yet available for prospective member Mike Paradise. Hopefully, in the next issue of this newsletter, we'll be welcoming them all as new Flight members. *Volabamus, Volamus.*

Ed Dwight, our April speaker and a prospective member

Born and raised in Kansas City, KS, Ed joined the U.S. Air Force in 1953, completed pilot training and became a jet fighter pilot. He also obtained a degree in Aeronautical Engineering from ASU. In 1961, he was chosen by President Kennedy to enter training to become the first Black astronaut. After completing Experimental Test Pilot School, he entered the Aerospace Research Pilot Course under Commandant Chuck Yeager and qualified as an astronaut.

In *The Right Stuff*, Tom Wolfe wrote about it from Yeager's perspective: "The whole process was to take place organically, however, as if in the natural order of things. Kennedy was leaning on the Defense Department, Defense was leaning on the Air Force brass, and they tossed the potato to Yeager. The pilot who had been singled out was an Air Force captain named Ed Dwight. He was to go through ARPS and be selected by NASA."

Dwight became the man in the middle. "Sponsored" by a president determined that NASA have at least one Black astronaut, Ed describes having to overcome strong resentment and racial prejudice, particularly on the part of Yeager, who he says pressured him relentlessly to quit the program despite his strong performance in training.

After JFK's assassination, there surfaced mysterious allegations against Ed of personal and criminal misconduct. He was quickly transferred out of the astronaut program and eventually left the Air Force. On the outside, he was unable to find employment. Only years later did FBI Director Louis Freeh officially acknowledge that the allegations against Dwight were false, that the government's defamatory dossier on him had been faked. (*And, yes, a movie is in the works.*)

In the early 1970s, Ed found his forte as a sculptor working in bronze. His first serious artistic endeavor began with a commission to create a sculpture of George Brown, Colorado's first Black Lt. Governor. Today Ed Dwight is a pre-eminent artist whose critically acclaimed works are on display throughout the United States.

Examples of Ed's work

Charlie Parker



Sharecroppers



Battle Creek Underground Railroad Memorial, Battle Creek, MI

Visit Ed's web site at www.eddwright.com

AWARDS

Below left: Flight 18 member and Tuskegee Airman Jim Harrison in 2004 receiving the prestigious Shades of Blue Ed Dwight Jr. award, recognizing selfless dedication to the furthering of air and space studies for the nation's youth.

Below right: Ed Dwight receives the 2002 Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts from then Denver Mayor Wellington Webb.

