

Langley AFA Chapter Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Location: Bayview Commonwealth Center, Langley Field, Hampton, Virginia

The meeting began at 1200 noon with President Mark “Buster” Douglas

Agenda:

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer led by Vince Wisniewski

Introduction of Head Table by Mark Douglas and Guest speakers

Guest Speaker – Lt Gen Jack Shanahan, Director Defense Intelligence
SMSgt Angela Blue, Purple Heart Recipient

President’s Remarks – Mark Douglas

- Announcements
- Dj Baylor was absent but would mention the symposium and Team Langley Salute 10-12 Apr
- Bill Etchison was awarded for STEM efforts/contributions
- VP for Vet Affairs - Vince Wisniewski is working to take vets to the Norfolk Admirals Hockey game
- VP for Gov Relations – Spoke to Congressman Scott Taylor former American Navy SEAL and the United States Representative for Virginia's 2nd congressional district, plans to have him as a future guest speaker for AFA monthly meetings
- VP for Wounded Airmen – SMSgt Chwalik found SMSgt locally on Langley AFB and convinced her to speak to at this monthly meeting about her receipt of the Purple Heart for combat resiliency

Keynote Speaker: SMSgt Angela Blue, Spoke about a time around June 2011, then Technical Sergeant she deployed to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sweeney in Shinkai District, Afghanistan, as an aeromedical technician for Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul. One month into her deployment, the base came under attack and was showered by 80-millimeter mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, and machine gun fire. Sergeant Blue, the lone medic for her 250-man team, received a radio request “Witch Doctor” to report to the Afghan National Army (ANA) side of the compound. Three local nationals had been hit by shrapnel and were in need of assistance. Once on scene and while still under

attack, Sergeant Blue triaged the wounded, while she simultaneously directed additional medical care and arranged for medical evacuation (medevac). While Sergeant Blue tended to her patients awaiting medevac, she noticed a patient bleeding from his already bandaged leg. She promptly applied a second tourniquet to stop the bleeding until the medevac arrived. Although the patient later lost his leg, his life was saved due to Sergeant Blue's attentiveness and decisive actions. Toward the end of her deployment, Sergeant Blue and her team were tasked to go on a resupply mission to FOB Atghar. As the team approached the edge of a mountain, the ANA field commander directed several Afghan soldiers to clear the route (IED Highway). Approximately 10 minutes later, there was a loud explosion. An Afghan Humvee transporting four soldiers had triggered a pressure-plate improvised explosive device (IED). Sergeant Blue ran to the Humvee, performed initial triage, and directed the team to treat other casualties with less severe wounds. She immediately tended to the driver who had open fractures to both of his lower legs, severe head injuries, and third-degree burns to his body. Sergeant Blue placed a tourniquet on one leg and instructed a teammate to place one on the other leg. Upon further evaluation, she noticed that the patient's breathing was labored and his vitals were diminishing, so she directed a Romanian medic on the scene to begin intravenous drips. As the patient's vitals improved, Sergeant Blue continued to monitor all four patients until the medevac arrived. Despite their traumatic wounds, all of the Afghan soldiers survived. Three hours after treating casualties from the first IED, the truck in which Sergeant Blue was riding struck another IED. Sergeant Blue sustained combat-related injuries and needed to be medically evacuated herself. Sergeant Blue was awarded the Air Force Combat Action Medal for her actions while under enemy fire and a Purple Heart for her injuries during combat. Additionally she was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Army Combat Action Badge, and Army Combat Medical Badge for her actions while deployed.

Keynote Speaker: Lt Gen Jack Shanahan, spoke about the air force from the top down and made many key points:

What he considers to be game changers:

Growing and emerging threats worldwide from world superpowers (Russia, China). The military as a whole will need to change the pace to match that of our adversaries. The current rate at which we produce

Technology and train is lagging in comparison to other world powers.

What does this mean:

US military advantages decreasing. Revolutionary capabilities will need to be fielded (AI Intelligence for example).

We're entering a data driven age:

Data will be what gas and oil was in WWII. Future will be human-machine teaming.

What shouldn't change:

Expertise, teamwork, Optimism, be bold and take risks and lead...but know how to follow

What should change:

If you bring a problem have a solution you need help completing, professional development and work life balance that will be the only way to we can *"COMPETE, DETER, AND WIN"*.

Mark Douglas awards/Guest speakers

Closing comments

- Tidewater Chapter future merger on track
- Langley AFA Symposium and Team Langley Salute is 10-12 April
- March event 12 March, Maj Gen Andrew Toth
- Encourages everyone to Join the AFA!!!!