

Gulf Coast Submission for NDIA Model Chapter Award for 2006

Mission Statement:

The Gulf Coast chapter of NDIA will support the NDIA by developing local programs to support the aims and activities of the NDIA national association, and provide a vehicle for liaison with local US Air Force and other US Government agencies and personnel. The Gulf Coast chapter will do this by facilitating the exchange of information between industry and government with particular emphasis on national security and defense preparedness issues, and by pursuing an active Association membership, recruitment, and retention program.

Annual Action plan with goals and objectives:

1. Support the NDIA top policy issues for the year
2. Conduct at least 4 executive interchange meetings between our members and significant government visitors, including one with our local Congressional representative.
3. Continue to host the annual Air Armament Symposium with support from the Air Armament Center (AAC), Eglin AFB. Distinguished speakers from within DoD, academia, government agencies, and industry will be brought in to provide insight on the future of Air Armament.
4. Facilitate AAC/Industry interaction by assisting staff and systems program offices as requested.
5. Invest in the future by supporting scholarship/endowment programs and continue our participation at graduation exercises at University of West Florida, Florida State University, and Florida A&M University. Outstanding ROTC cadets are recognized with a small gift and membership in NDIA.

Financially Sustaining:

The Gulf Coast Chapter had a net worth of \$33,095 at the completion of the last fiscal year. We successfully completed our financial plan to allocate \$70,000 to fully endow a scholarship at the University of West Florida. We continue our efforts to endow other self sustaining scholarships at the Okaloosa Walton College and University of West Florida as we investigate other scholarship opportunities within our local area. Additionally, the chapter remains dedicated to provide funding for the Hugh Harris scholarship fund.

Political Support:

Congressional support of national defense initiatives is paramount to our national security. A number of our members meet with local, state, and national leaders to emphasize the important role that defense plays in our national security and to garner support for maintaining a strong defense base.

Goals and Objectives-NDIA policies:

NDIA top policy issues are included in the Gulf Coast Chapter annual planning.

Chapter teams with NDIA National:

Educating our community on national security events is a primary goal for our chapter. We annually sponsor an NDIA/Air Armament Symposium, with AAC support, that attracts attendance from all services. Speakers and attendees come from throughout the United States and a number of foreign countries. Attendance at this symposium proved to be the most attended event with 659 attendees!

Chapter/National Coordination:

The Gulf Coast Chapter works with NDIA to ensure local events do not conflict with nationally planned events.

Chapter Communications:

The Gulf Coast Chapter has established a webpage that keeps members posted on upcoming events. Additionally, members are emailed about meetings and upcoming speakers so they can plan accordingly. The chapter has also teamed with the Air Armament Center to offer some meetings, and as a result enjoys the mass distribution of certain NDIA events to all members of the acquisition community at Eglin AFB, FL.

Board Membership:

We are privileged to have a number of chapter members who believe strongly in the mission of NDIA. Our board membership is evidence of the high level of support we garner from the local Air Force Bases, DoD contractors, and the community as a whole. The board membership is comprised of a cross-section of DoD contractors, DoD employees, and retired USAF officers. Over the past several years we have enjoyed having Senior Executive Service members serve as the president of our board.

Public Relations:

Our chapter recognizes the importance that good public relations plays in ensuring events are well advertised, attended, and reported. Two of our board members are responsible for working with our program planning committee to publicize all events online, in the newspaper, and on Eglin AFB. All coverage of events has been positive and resulted in good attendance. In addition to communicating with the public, our chapter is dedicated to fostering Public Relations through our continued participation within our local community. We have expanded our contributions to local middle and high school Science Fairs through our service as judges for technical projects and we have supported the expansion of the Air Armament Museum, highlighting the history of weapons development.

Showcase National Security.

The Gulf Coast Chapter believes one of its key purposes is to facilitate an exchange of information and encourage awareness about national security interests within our community. We host 3-4 executive interchange meetings throughout the year, which generally include a speaker and allow for audience participation during a question and answer session. We also host sessions that include numerous speakers and panel sessions, generally taking two days, to ensure we do a thorough job of educating our community and encouraging exchange of ideas. Our premier event for the year is the Air Armament Symposium Scheduled for October of this year. We will also assist in conducting this year's Precision Strike PEO Forum which will be held in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Scholarship:

The Gulf Coast Chapter established the Hugh Harris Air-to-Air Target Scholarship years ago and continues to fund this scholarship today. We have expanded our scholarship program to include four scholarship endowment funds; two at the University of West Florida and two at the Okaloosa Walton College. This is a 50% increase over last years support! Our chapter is pleased to boast our achievement of the \$100K mark in scholarship funding to the University of West Florida; a distinguished milestone. We continue to investigate the possibility of continued expansion to include universities outside of the immediate area that provide educational opportunities that support our mission areas.

Membership Programs (Corporate and Individual):

Our local chapter encourages corporate and individual memberships at all chapter NDIA events. Additionally, they work with Eglin AFB and local defense contractors to encourage employee participation. Email at Eglin AFB is used in membership drives to encourage new member applications. Our chapter webpage also includes membership information and applications.

Growth:

Our local membership has experienced impressive growth in the last year. Our membership now stands at 858, which is an increase of up to 68 from the previous year membership of 790.

Board List:

President:	Mrs. Judy Stokley
First Vice-President	Mr. Dave Andrews
Second Vice-President	Ms. Lynda Rutledge
Treasurer:	Mr. Grady Jordan
Secretary:	Mr. Bob Blake
Membership:	Mr. Thomas Robillard/Ms Cheryl Nilsson
Symposium Chair:	Mr. Robert Marinan/Ms Donna Lassiter
Awards Chair	Mr. Reuben Manasco/Ms Elizabeth Thorne/Col Richard Justice
Program Chair:	Ms. Gail Allen/Mr. Bob Marinan
Publicity Chair:	Mr. Murray Anderson/ Mr. Nick Holoviak
Scholarship Chair:	Mr. Russel Klug/Mr. Russ Howard