



AUSA Sunshine Chapter Newsletter – Winter 2021 (Dec – Mar)
Covid-19 continues to interfere with normal operations for our chapter. But, there is still much to do. Here are some of the you can get involved that you don't want to miss each year!

Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration

2020 was not the year to relax in recognizing the service of our Veterans of the Vietnam War. This commemorative period is



different than some in that we are celebrating the 50th over a period that recognizes the entire war and its every evolving Veterans. In our other wars before this, troops were there for the entirety. For Vietnam, the length of the war meant some came and were gone before others even joined up to go or serve elsewhere in time of war. We should keep that in our hearts and continue to commemorate and fellowship

with these Veterans. The VA estimates that we lost 559 Vietnam Veterans a day throughout 2020. The pace will only pick up. They gather all year round, to come back together and remember those who did not come back, and we have the opportunity to say thanks by joining them. I am not one of them, but they have never asked me to go away. They want to

share, and we ought to want to listen and learn. It just takes a bit of your time. <https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>

Wreaths Across America

The VA's National Cemeteries participate in the annual Christmas-time Wreaths Across America program. Local VA cemeteries include the Florida National (Bushnell) and Cape Canaveral National (Mims). Both cemeteries welcomed literally thousands of wreath-layer volunteers to place a wreath at all, or most, of the graves in the entire cemetery. You can participate by volunteering to be there to distribute the wreaths, or by donating to purchase wreaths so that EVERY grave gets a wreath next year. Visiting and donating is easy, also. Your local Sunshine Chapter had several participants in 2020, and we hope to have more in 2021.

<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

Jointness, and Toys for Tots

On Saturday 19 Dec, EXCOM members Traci Jones and Kevin Vizzarri supported the Army Aviation Association of America Central Florida Chapter donating 5 turkey Christmas boxes of a full dinner to the Orlando Recruiting Company. AAAA and AUSA partner every year to support local units during Thanksgiving and Christmas. At its





standard “2nd Friday of the Month” meeting at Frogger’s in Oviedo, the AAAA Chapter also hosted its **Toys for Tots** event in conjunction with local US Marine Corps Reservists and

MSgt Sean Osmond. AUSA members were all over this event, and our Jeep-restorer, COL (R) Fran Fierko was back with “Sky Pilot”.



Sunshine Chapter Social Media

The Chapter has Scott Ariotti, who actually knows what he is doing, in charge of our social media accounts now! A giant step forward. Are you following us on social media? If not, you should be. Apart from our presence on Facebook, we've started a whole new (official) page on LinkedIn. The previous Sunshine Chapter page on LinkedIn was started by someone from outside our area and has been unresponsive in our requests to get the page turned over. So, here's to a fresh start. Please join us there for professional news and announcements. And don't forget about our chapter page on the National AUSA website. Facebook under the title “Sunshine Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA)”. LinkedIn group is at “**AUSA Sunshine Chapter (Official)**”.

<https://www.facebook.com/AUSASunshine/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ausa-sunshine-chapter-official>

<https://www.ausa.org/chapters/sunshine-chapter>

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		December 1 	2 	3 	4 	5
6	NDIA 7	8	9	10	11 	12
13	14	15	16  EXCOM	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas 	26
27	28	29	30	31	January 1 New Year's Day 	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 CPAG Defense Forum Breakfast	9
10	NDIA 11	 1 PALT 	13	14	15	16
17 	18 MLK Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27  EXCOM	28	29	30

Key Events:

1 Dec IITSEC (Virtual)
8 Jan CPAG Defense Forum

EXCOM Priorities:

Holiday Baskets with AAAA
Army Ball 2021 Planning
Leveraging IITSEC for membership & sponsors
Support to CPAG Forum

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	February 1	2 Groundhog's Day	3	4	5	6
7	NDIA 8	 9 PALT RSA APBI	10	11	12 	13
14 St Valentine's Day 	 15 President's Day	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21	22	23	 24 EXCOM	25 	26 	27
28	March 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	NDIA 8	 9 PALT 	10	11	12 	13
14 Daylight Savings Time	15	16 	17  	18 	19	20
21	22	23	 24 EXCOM	NDIA 25 	26	27
28	 29 PEO STRI ABB Meeting	30	31			

Key Events:

- 25 Feb Air Warfare Symposium (Virtual)
- 16 March Global Force Symposium (Virtual)
- 25 Mar NDIA & WID Luncheon (Hybrid)

EXCOM Priorities:

- Army Ball 2021 Command Coordination
- Unit Awards for ROTC
- ABB Unit Awards
- Global Force Symposium