



Issue 1
Volume 32
Sep 2024

The Canopy

North Central Florida All Airborne Chapter

*Connecting sky
soldiers, past
and present.*



Mortar system static display. Photo by Ron Dahlgren

All American Week 2024

The Canopy reports on the events at Ft. Liberty during All American Week, **page 4.**

78th Annual National Convention

More than three-hundred attendees filled the Rosen Centre during our 78th Annual National Convention, **page 6.**

Directory & Chapter Calendar

Chapter Officers		
Chairman	Tony Alger	(719) 310-8951
Vice Chairman	Gary Blasczienski	(757) 602-9164
Treasurer	Heath Davenport	(571) 641-9057
Secretary	Rich Troop	(610) 823-7505
Service Officer	Joyce Damon	(352) 208-4963
Recruiting / Villages	Tony Alger	(719) 310-8951
Recruiting / Ocala	Tig Blackman	(352) 591-4752
Canopy Editor	Ron Dahlgren	(407) 577-1746

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Sept 14th, 1300 hrs VFW Post 8083
 12666 US-441
 Belleview, FL 34420

From The Editor

This month's issue brings together some photos and a little narrative from our two big association events over the summer. I cannot stress enough how fun All American Week can be. If you haven't been back to Ardennes street in ten years, twenty, thirty, or more - you absolutely must go! It's so energizing to be around the active duty troops. The command team is accessible and interested in our stories. The museum is wonderful, the regimental and battalion headquarters are almost museums in their own right.

The national convention was a blast as well. It was absolutely exhausting, but also excellent. I guess those two parts are related.

Airborne! All The Way!

Ron Dahlgren

Editor, The Canopy

<https://www.the-canopy.org>



Chairman's Message

The summer months. It will be good to see all your smiling faces and hear some stories of your doings over the summer. Right after the meeting, I'm headed to Spain and Portugal for a few weeks. All American Week was a great success with Rich Becker, Leo McGinnis and Ron Dahlgren attending. Also the 82nd Airborne Convention was held this year in Orlando, FL. What a great time we had. The Tampa Chapter did a great job of putting it together. As most of you know their Chapter lost its Chairman a few months back but they were able to push through and get things done. Also the Command Sergeant Major of the 82nd Airborne Division was seen many times helping serve drinks and helping them with whatever needed to be done, way to go; Airborne! This convention had a lot of participation from the Chapter. As many as eight members past and present were in attendance during the convention. Additionally we'll have two new members because we found out they live in the Villages and are requesting to transfer to our Chapter. The Rosen Hotel is a super place to be and centrally located near lots of places of interest. Our very own Ron Dahlgren was Master of Ceremonies for our two banquets at the convention. He did a great job announcing and keeping things rolling. The 82nd Choir did a bang up job singing and entertaining us when they performed. It was nice catching up with old friends and making new ones during the 78th Annual Convention. Next year's convention will be in Knoxville, Tennessee. In closing, please attend the September 14th meeting with your thoughts and concerns. Lots to do, next years chapter elections, Belks Charity Drive and Christmas Party to name a few. Hope to see you on the manifest - Airborne All the Way!



Tony Alger, Chairman, North Central Florida All-Airborne Chapter

10 Most Recent Canopy Boosters - Thank you for your support!

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Galen Mitchell | Jerry & Robby Brust |
| Heath Davenport | Christopher Adams |
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| Darla & Jay Tatman | John Kinney |
| Howard Northrup | Arthur Tate |

Our 2024 Booster Goal is \$500

Start 50% Complete!



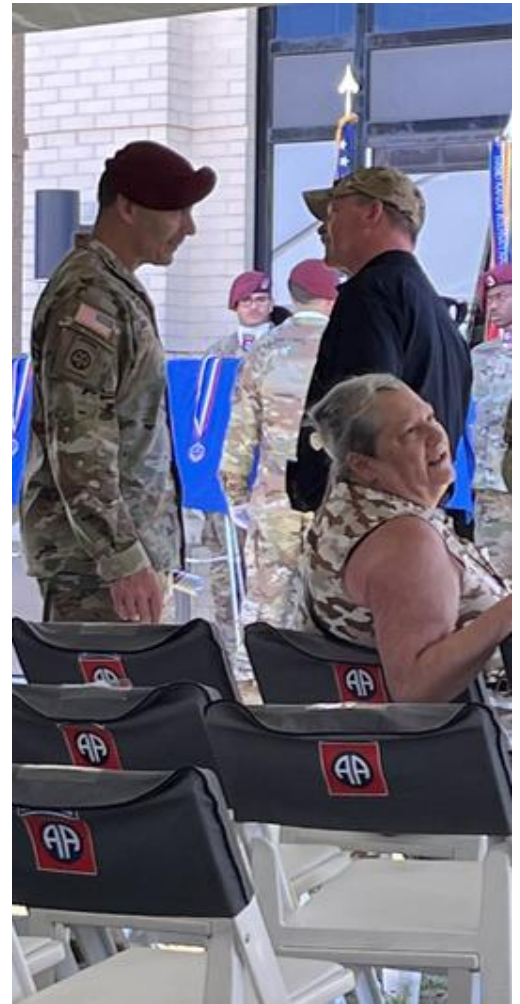
All American Week 2024



Above: The Veteran formation for the Division Review. Lower right: The Chorus performs at the Association Banquet. Photo by Ron Dahlgren.

May 20th, Ft. Liberty, NC – I arrived a day late to the All American Week activities this year. Balancing a job and young family sometimes means cuts. The NCFAAC was represented by Leo, Rich, and myself this year. Sporting events, a memorial ceremony, the hall of fame induction, and the association banquet were among the highlights. I visited three different regimental picnics this year and regret to say the 325 put on the best. Moon Hall was filled with activity each night. The 555 association kept us fed and hydrated. Auctions were held each night with a new record for association proceeds being set. If you haven't been to All American Week as a veteran, you're missing out!





Clockwise from top-right: Auction night at Moon Hall; LTG Donahue talks with a gold star father; UH-60 static display; 1st BDE Area. Photos by Ron Dahlgren



78th Annual National Convention

August 14th-17th, Rosen Centre, Orlando, FL - The Annual National Convention was nearby this year. We had a good turnout, with more than 300 people attending. Highlights included regimental dinners, guest speakers LTC (Ret.) Scott Mann, William Yeske, comedian Bobby Henline, a ladies brunch, nightly auctions, and two formal dinners. My highlight was hearing Scott Mann speak about his experience coordinating evacuations of at-risk Afghans during the 2021 noncombatant evacuation operation. You can read more about that in the March 2024 issue of The Canopy. As the Chairman mentioned, I was honored to emcee the formal dinners. The Tampa Bay All Airborne Chapter did a great job hosting. The attendees were challenged to finish off 32 (!) kegs of beer in the short four days of activities. Tony has a picture of several NCFAC members together from the final night - ask him about it! We also had a fire drill - a common occurrence over the last few years at our events.



Above: Ron and wife Catherine with Director Cinati; Bottom Left: NCFAC members gather for a photo; Bottom Right: Devil 9 at the Devil Dinner. Photos by Ron Dahlgren





Above and below: Day zero cannon setup. Your prize for an early arrival!
 Bottom left: Association banquet - what a crowd!



Above: The Rosen Centre is a big place. Below: Some auction items.
 Bottom right: After Scott Mann's presentation. Photos by Ron Dahlgren



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Ft. Benning, GA, airborne graduation November 2001. Photo provided by Ron Dahlgren.

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