



Military Affairs Council



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Volunteer of the Year 2023

Col (Ret) Dave Lay

Col (Ret) Dave Lay was honored during the Christmas Social as the MAC 2023 Volunteer of the Year. Dave works to continue serving the Airmen of Barksdale by showing up for all Celebrate Barksdale Events to make sure they stay hydrated and offering his time and sage advice when needed. As the Awards Committee Lead, he never misses an opportunity to celebrate the Airmen of 2nd and 307th Bomb Wings who have been selected above their peers for their outstanding service. Dave is still an Airmen at heart and shows his dedication to our future leaders every day.

Behind the Scenes: Roots for Boots

Kem Smelser is working hard behind the scenes to get Roots for Boots supported. He meets with the First Term Airmen (first enlistment into the Air Force) and lets them know what the MAC does to support them during their tenure at Barksdale AFB.

As First Term Airmen, ranging in age from 18-22, most of these men and women reside in the dormitories and are away from their family for the first time in their lives. The MAC matches airmen with screened local families to provide off-base supportive, family environment with the opportunity to relax and recreate. This can be in the form of fellowship, holidays to spend with someone when they can't



make it home, and just overall mentorship.

If anyone within the MAC is interested in supporting this cause, please reach out to Kem Smelser at kem_smelser@yahoo.com



Operation Bright Holiday

Family is a key element to meeting the needs of our BAFB personnel. In November 2023, the MAC made a \$10,000 contribution to the Operation Bright Holiday program so our women and men serving the country could spend some quality time being served by others and spending the holidays with their families.

[See More on the Roots for Boosts Program](#)

MASTERS OF THE AIR

We were honored to have the privilege to meet and spend time with "Lucky" Luckadoo!



Masters of the Air is a book written by Donald L. Miller highlighting the roll the 100th Bomb Group played during WW II. The 100th Bomb Group was a part of our very own 8th AF and will go down in history as a being so pivotal that "World War II could not have been won without the bombers of the US Eighth Air Force". Of those pilots who sacrificed, many with their lives, we had the honor of meeting 101 year old John "Lucky" Luckadoo who was assigned to the 100th Bomb Group stationed in Thorpe Abbots, England. Between June and October 1943, he flew B-17 Flying Fortresses over France and Germany on bombing runs devised to destroy the Nazi war machine.

As one of our last surviving WW II heroes, the MAC had an opportunity to meet Lucky while attending the 8th AF's official Apple TV+ advanced viewing of the first episode of "Masters of the Air" and additionally host a dinner for Lucky and other descendants that came in for the screening. As 2nd Bomb Wing worked their magic to have a B-52 on hand for Lucky to see, he did not let his age stop him from climbing into the cockpit and giving everyone a hearty wave. A true American Hero!



MAC Merchandise Pickup!

If you are on the Board of Directors and have not received your ordered MAC polo, please contact Shelley Cohen to arrange to pickup or meet for delivery.

shelley.cohen@sbmilitaryaffairs.com

Put It On Your Calendar

Membership Luncheons

Wednesday, 14 February 24

11:30 AM

Petroleum Club, Shreveport

RSVP deadline 12 February

Come to welcome the newest 2 BW
Commander, Col Michael Maginness

Wednesday, 1 May 24

11:30 AM

Petroleum Club, Shreveport

Get Your Membership Renewals In!

Basic Membership \$300

Premium Membership \$500

[https://sbmilitaryaffairs.com/product/
membership-fee/](https://sbmilitaryaffairs.com/product/membership-fee/)

Upcoming Board Meetings

Tuesday, 26 March

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Beard Towers Board Room

3rd Floor | Shreveport

Tuesday, 28 May

4:30 - 5:30 PM

2BW Commander's Conference Room

Barksdale AFB

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Visit our Website



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