NORTHEAST TEXAS CHAPTER 416 AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
EARLE NORTH PARKER ESSAY CONTEST
School Year 2019 – 2020 Entry Form

Name of Participant: (Please print – First – Middle – Last)

_____

Address: (Please print: Street, City, State, Zip Code)

_____

Home/Cell Telephone:_____ School: _____

Parent / Guardian Name(s): _____

E-Mail Contact for Student: _____

ESSAY TOPIC – Define and support your position on the following topic:

Twenty-One years of conflict: What's Next?

(See attached sheet with additional information and data on the topic.)

CONTEST RULES:

- Participants must be a **senior in a State of Texas High School** (or at senior level if home schooled).
- Essays must pertain to the Essay Topic shown above; ensure you read and use attached info.
- Font size will be **12 point** and margins will be **1 inch on all sides**.
- Reference material will not be included in the essay, but sources may be mentioned.
- Essays must be no more than **two-pages** and be typed, double-spaced, on 8½ x 11-inch white paper.
- Participant name will be typed in the upper right corner of each page of the essay, submitted as part of the contest entry. Pages must be **numbered sequentially**, at the bottom of each page
- Essay topic must be typed, centered at the top of page one of the essay, two spaces above the first line of the first paragraph
- All information required on this form (above) and signature below must be provided
- Grammar and proper punctuation will be scored
- Contest entry form and the essay must be emailed by January 17, 2020
- All participants **must sign the release below**, and include it with the entry form

I hereby grant permission to the Air Force Association, chapter, state of Texas and AFA National, to publish in any publication of its choice, any essay and related materials or information I submit.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return entry form by email:

Attn: Vance Clarke
TX416.Northeast@afa.org // 903-274-9981
AFA 416 Northeast Texas
PO Box 8633
Greenville, TX 75404-8633

Prizes:
1st Place – $2,000
2nd Place – $1,500
3rd Place – $1,000

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ADDITIONAL DATA

The Armed Forces of the United States of America have been at war continuously for 21 years, longer than any other period of continuous active warfare in our history. In addition, the Air Force, perhaps more than any other branch has been in the forefront of these struggles. Because of the fast response and the ability to engage enemy forces where ever they are — this is the strength inherent in airpower.

The effects of this continuous conflict are yet to be fully understood. There is some good in what has become an unending mission: (1) we have, and continue to, discover what approaches work best in irregular warfare, (2) we have battle-tested new weapons and tactics and are discovering what works, (3) pilots and maintenance personnel and nearly everyone all our warriors are now the most experienced in the world.

There are also numerous downsides and this is a matter of concern; (1)aircraft are wearing out much faster than they would in peacetime, (2) frequent deployments for both active duty and reserve forces — the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command have accelerated and caused accelerated separations in nearly every area, (3) and of course, the expense in both lives and dollars seems unending.

Your challenge is to focus on what might be an appropriate direction to enable the Air Force to expand capabilities to ensure security not only against irregular forces, but also against emerging possible adversaries whose technology may equal, rival, or surpass ours.

A critical challenge will be to limit your suggestions to one or two of the possibilities to enable you to research and support your position in only two-page essay.

Possible research sources include the AFA website, newspapers, magazines and many others. A challenge it is, and we wish you the best!

Things to consider:

In answering the theme question, remember that there are no right or wrong answers. Your challenge is to research your facts, pick and define the position you will discuss, and frame your response within the two-page limit, while supporting why you feel this position is important to national security.

There are numerous sources of information: news broadcasts, talk shows, newspapers and magazines, and of course, the internet. Find appropriate support, and turn it into a well-documented opinion. The Air Force Association website at www.AFA.org has a wide range of well-done articles on both aspects of the question, as does the Air Force website, www.af.mil, and there are many more than we can possibly mention. We know you are bright, talented, and able! We look forward to your response.

Good luck and thanks for your interest!