

MUSTANG MATTERS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 63RD OFFICER CANDIDATE WING ASSOCIATION

Volume III, Number 1
March 2008



COMMANDER'S CORNER: Well, I'm glad to say that we have established a fairly solid foundation for our fledgling Association. Our Officer, Staff and Board structure has been reasonably responsive, we are maintaining a reasonable financial balance without resorting to any membership fees, and have raised sufficient funds to support our two Memorial projects on Lackland AFB, TX. We have received official approval to use the OCS Emblem and approval from the Lackland Museum Foundation to include an OCS display case there. We are working the gifting process for the two OCS benches at the new Lackland Memorial Park and expect that approval in the next few months. After four combined class reunions west of the Mississippi, we are moving to the east side for a couple of events. I would anticipate a future rotation of East, Central and West reunion locations after the 2011 event. Additionally, we have an excellent website and are producing two Newsletters a year. After operating for a couple of years, it is probably time to re-look at our Constitution and By-laws for possible updates, and to investigate the feasibility of becoming a Veteran, non-profit [501(c)(19)], organization. Just a couple of things to do while waiting for the next reunion to share those "fond" OCS memories.

Tom Hansen, 63B

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FINANCIAL REPORT (AS OF 31 DEC 07) - We have \$904.00 in General Operating Funds, \$1,000 in Dedicated Reunion Funds and \$3,138 in the Memorial Fund for a total of \$5,042. The Comptroller has put \$3,000 of that in a 9 month CD. Our Budget projections for 2008 are as follows: \$2,000 for Lackland Memorial Bench project, \$500 for Lackland Museum project, \$500 for 2009 Reunion seed money, \$300 for Website expenses, and \$300 for Admin/flowers/cards/donations/misc.

MEMBERSHIP - The 2007 Reunion generated some interest by attendees from 62D and 60C to have their classes formally join our Association. Gary Kent is following up on the 62D Class, and John Mawhinney is working the 60C Class. Additionally, Kathy Bush has contacted the OCS Grads in the AF Women's Officer Assn. suggesting that they consider joining us for at least the reunions. Regarding our current members, we seem to be losing a classmate every 2-3 months, and when we know in time, we have been able to provide flowers/donations at the funeral. If too late, we send a condolence card. In either case, we have received several positive responses from spouses/families. *If you know a classmate has passed away or is seriously ill, please let your class communicator know ASAP.* As long as funding is available, we will continue this effort.

REUNION 2007: The **Tucson Reunion** was well received by all those who were able to attend. We had an attendee from Class 43C, one from 56D, several from 60C, 62C and 62D, and also the last individual to graduate from AF OCS, Fernando Zapeda, 63D. We had 98 persons sign up, but only 88 actually attended the event due to mostly last minute medical issues. We had enough interest that all of the projected tours were run and the hotel provided excellent support for the Reception, Banquet and Hospitality Room operation. We had super entertainment by a young Mariachi Band at the reception, and a great combo for dinner and dancing music at the banquet. Between registration fees, sale of OCS logo items and donations, we were able to return the \$1,000 seed money, \$500 to the Memorial Fund and reimburse \$300 in website expenses. With the dollars remaining, we reimbursed two late canceling couples at least a portion of their registration fees. We'll continue to plan for similar results from future reunion events. We also have 19 OCS hats, 17 OCS badges and 120 lapel pins

available for pure profit sales at future reunions. The **Business Meeting** was well attended, with the key items being the Officer Elections, future reunion times and locations, and to investigate possible non-profit status. Four of the previous officers were reelected and Mike Annast, 63A, was elected as the Vice Commander. I have chosen Bob Karre to replace Mike as Chair for the Museum and Memorial Committee. **Reunion Schedule:** The committee proposed that the next reunion be held in **Washington DC in 2009**, followed by **Dayton OH/W-P AFB in 2011**, and then **San Antonio TX in 2013** (60th Anniversary of the closing of OCS). There were no other suggestions from the floor, and the group unanimously approved that schedule. Our intent is to survey members residing in the DC area to see if we have sufficient volunteers, with experience, to run our own event. If that is not the case, I have two highly recommended military reunion organizations in mind to run it. They make their money off the hotels, bus companies and tour groups, except when we ask them to do something above and beyond, such as run the hospitality room. My **Tucson Reunion Committee** of Ed Sanford, 63A; Dave Mason and David Streeter, 63C; Kathy Bush and Fernando Zapeda, 63D; John Mawhinney, 60C; and my wife Peggy did a highly commendable job in making the reunion a success for all, and special kudos to David Streeter for setting up/running the best registration program I have seen over the years.

MEMORIAL PROJECTS: Bob Karre has volunteered to take on both the Lackland Memorial Bench and Museum Display projects. He has discussed the bench project with the Wing leadership and is working the gifting process. The new location is due to gate construction causing the relocation of the SEA Airpark. He is also working to reconfirm the type and cost of the benches with our new company. We currently aren't getting much support out of the Museum curator, and are somewhat treading water on that project. We have run out of ideas on getting some additional manpower from other classes to support Bob, and to further complicate the issue, he has had to pick up his old job, since his replacement quit. On the plus side we do have the funds for both projects.

A MEMBER'S REPORT ON THE 2007 REUNION – TUCSON, ARIZONA

Another great reunion is in the books. As we normally have done, we had golf, tours, food galore, fantastic entertainment and another opportunity to greet old friends and meet new ones from the other classes. We were especially honored to have Joe Salvo from Class 43C join us this year. A classmate from Class 43I (Charles Smith) had also planned to attend but had to cancel at the last moment for health reasons. Opening up the reunions to all OCS graduates is a wonderful idea and we were honored to have classmates from the early days at Miami Beach attend

Day One was rather quiet with the arrival of the golfers and some other early registrations and a few familiar faces at Happy Hour. On Day Two, Kathy had the golfers out on the course in the early morning. In the evening, we had our welcome reception. This was highlighted with a performance by Mariachi Azlan from Pueblo High School. These young people were fantastic and speak well for the musical future of Mariachi music. The following days the tours occupied the major portion of each day. We had the opportunity to have a bus tour of old Tucson, the university area, Sabino Canyon with its many examples of desert vegetation, and a visit to the DEGRAZIA Gallery in the Sun which showcases the Southwestern Art of "Ted" DeGrazia. The tour guides words about mountain lions and crawling creatures seemed to dampen our desire to wonder very far into the desert. Later we visited the Pima Air and Space Museum and Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center – commonly called the boneyard.

It was exciting to see the old airplanes we were all too familiar with. The serious shoppers and the nonairplane enthusiasts went to TUBAC and the Mission San Xavier Del Bac to see Arizona's oldest European settlement and the mission on the Tohomo O'odham Reservation. Later tours also included the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and an all day tour to Tombstone to re-live the Fight at the OK Corral. On Tuesday evening, we went to the Gaslight Theater for an evening of light comedy featuring "Scrooge" and a musical comedy act. The show was superb and the popcorn was plentiful. Wednesday morning found us in a breakfast business meeting to review the status of the 63rd Officer Candidate Wing Association, our finances, the election of officers and an update on our memorial projects. The wing arrangement is functioning very well. It gives us a single entity to propose various projects to sustain the memory of the Officer Candidate School and place memorial items at Lackland AFB and the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB. The day concluded with our farewell reception, class photos, and music from the "Live Music" group. Tom also used the occasion to review the

matters discussed at the business meeting. Kathy announced the results of the golf competition and gave out the prizes. Our in-house auctioneer, Tom Jones, also auctioned off three sketches done by Jack Ashcraft, Class 63-B and some memorabilia from the OCS Dining hall with the proceeds going to our various memorial projects. Class 63D provided entertainment with a poem outlining fun and frustration of being Second Class. The evening concluded with dancing.

In closing, we must give credit to the reunion committee for the outstanding planning and execution that made this week so memorable.

Dave Mason, 63C

OCS DISPLAY AT THE LACKLAND HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Good News! As the result of efforts by Bob Karre, and others before him, it looks like our OCS Display at the Lackland AFB History and Traditions Museum is about to become a reality.

The Lackland museum is dedicated to “collecting and interpreting the history of Air Force Enlisted Training” since 1916. Museum staff, Lackland officials and, more recently, the Lackland Gateway Heritage Foundation have all agreed that—because of the long-time presence of OCS at Lackland, and the enlisted background of OCS attendees—OCS also represents an important part of the heritage and history of Lackland Air Force Base.

While specific details of the “OCS Display” are still being worked out, it will essentially consist of a “display case,” similar to the one in the photo, containing various memorabilia, artifacts, etc., possibly a mannequin with OCS uniform, etc., etc. There will also be a wall display with appropriate photos, posters, and other documents, items suitable for wall hanging. Eventually, there will also be an (interactive) audio-visual display reflecting the history of OCS.

I have agreed to be the focal point for the collection and further processing of both items for the OCS Display and much-needed donations to continue the development and growth of the Display.

As a first step, and to avoid unnecessary duplication and accompanying expenses of shipping, etc., I would just ask those who have items they would like to contribute, to contact me with a brief description of the item(s). After I have received a number of “offers,” we can sort through them and get back with the prospective donors and arrange for the actual transfer and shipping. Some of the items we have in mind are: OCS uniform articles, ranging from insignia, shoulder boards, name tags, etc., all the way to OCS uniform(s) for the mannequin. Also, photos, documents, letters, handouts, orders, magazine/newspaper articles describing the OCS program, etc., etc. Dive into those old storage boxes and spaces and use your imagination.

As for monetary donations, whether it is \$1 or \$1,000,000 (inflation, you know), please make your checks out to Joe Scarlett, memo "OCS Exhibit" and mail to Dorian de Wind.

All donors and donations will be properly thanked and acknowledged.

Let's make our “OCS Display” something we can be proud of!

Dorian de Wind, 63A



AIR FORCE OFFICE CANDIDATE SCHOOL

PROGRAM FACTOIDS

- 1) Since 1948, 27 AF OCS graduates were promoted to line General Officer, including 4 Lt. Generals.
- 2) AF OCS attendees averaged 5-6 years of active duty, and had a 95% career retention rate.
- 3) AF OCS produced over 41,000 officers, normally averaging 300-600 per year.
- 4) Due to the Korean War, in 1953 AF OCS had its highest production of 2,085 graduates.
- 5) The AF OCS class system was based on which military academy? -- West Point.
- 6) In a 1962 study of UPT, OCS officers maintained academic, flying and military grades equal to AF Academy grads and superior to aviation cadets or OTS/ROTC officers.
- 7) The initial Army Air Corps officer candidates were former aviation cadets, active-duty Warrant Officers and enlisted under 36 years of age.
- 8) Army Air Corps/Army Air Forces/USAF OCS operated at three locations: Miami, FL, San Antonio Cadet Cntr/Army AF Mil Tng Cntr/Lackland AFB, TX and Maxwell AFB, AL.