

From: Southern Arizona AOG soazaogpresident@gmail.com
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SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

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Hello Southern Arizona AOG,

The monsoon is in full swing here in Tucson and the Class of '23 has started the fall semester with the rest of the cadet wing back at the Zoo. It doesn't feel possible that summer is over and that cadets are walking around the Terrazzo with 23s on their A-Jacket shoulders.

Speaking of the Zoo, what nickname(s) do your contemporaries use when referring to USAFA? "The Zoo" is a common term from grads of the 80s-90s, but I see eyes glaze over when I mention it to recent grads. How do grads of your vintage refer to the Academy? You can go to the still-new [Southern Arizona Chapter Facebook page](#) and post some of the terms from your time-- "T-Zo" versus "Terrazzo" and "Squad" instead of "Squadron"--if you're a newer grad for instance. Let everyone know what you called it back in the day and still call it today.

Thanks to Paul "Boo" Butalla ('75) and Chrissie for hosting the second summer period Operation Air Force cadets at their home in July. Thanks also to Capt Keith Link ('15) and Capt Austin Gouldsmith ('15) who stopped in at our place while Bizzy and I were hosting the third period group. Our more "seasoned"

chapter members provide a great service for the cadets when we show up and tell stories about going downtown in Vietnam, sitting alert in Europe during the Cold War and going downrange in the current AORs. When you combine those old stories with those from a grad who just pinned on captain and has a baby on his hip, it provides powerful imagery for the kids to show them what being a member of the Long Blue Line really means--to them and to the nation.

Looking ahead to the remainder of August, the chapter doesn't have any events on the calendar. I'll be attending the AOG Chapter President's Conference at the Academy on the 28th and 29th and then staying through the rest of the weekend for the Parent's Weekend festivities to include the football home-opener versus Colgate. The game will be broadcast on ESPN3 at 1230 Tucson-time. In the September newsletter, I'll pass on all of the information that comes out at the conference. If you have any questions for USAFA leadership, you can reply to this e-mail to let me know what they are. I'll make sure your voice is heard on the Hill.

We have two events on the books for September:

13 Sep, 1630-ish Happy Hour: Gail and Bruce Grosetta ('65) are hosting a happy hour at their home at 3349 N Calle Tortosa. The hosts will provide beer, wine and soft drinks. Please bring an appetizer to share.

28 Sep, Time TBD: It's been a while since the chapter last took a trip down to Sonoita to visit [Flying Leap Vineyards](#). In case you're not familiar, three grads, Mark Beres ('91), Marc Moeller ('91) and Tom Kitchens ('90), founded Flying Leap from scratch back in 2010. In nine years, they've built it into a premium brand with a destination winery estate. Every trip down to Sonoita, the guys have something new to show off and Mark always gives a fantastic tour and commentary. If you go to the [Facebook page](#), you'll see pictures of previous trips and you'll be amazed at how much they've built since then. If we get enough interest, maybe we could hire a bus to take us down there. Let me know through the [Facebook page](#), or via e-mail if that's something that you'd be interested in doing. Expect details in the September newsletter.

Want to volunteer some time to help out the chapter? The chapter is whatever we'd like it to be. If you think there's something we could do to

whatever we'd like it to be. If you think there's something we could do to support members, cadets, or the local community, don't be shy! Specific things that we could use right now include folks to complete and/or moderate the very-soon-to-be-online webpage, and someone to organize a super-cool football watch party when the Falcons take on Navy on 5 Oct. Let me know if you have any great ideas.

Until next time,

Wear blue, be proud and Go Falcons!



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