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SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

The best time of the year has finally arrived

September Newsletter





Clockwise from top: AOG Chapter President Conference attendees: The last peek inside the cadet chapel as it goes under scaffolding for the next four years: The new Commandant, BG Michele C. Edmondson, new Dean, Col Linell Letendre ('96) and new Command Chief CMSgt Robert D. Johnson.

Hello Southern Arizona AOG

Summer is officially (finally) over in a couple of weeks, but the weather is already beautiful up in Colorado Springs (and getting there in Elgin--more on that in a bit). I've got too much to cover in one e-mail, so I'm going to just hit some highlights and drip out the good stuff over the next couple of months.

First, and most importantly...

Upcoming Local Events

- **THIS Friday, 13 Sep:** Happy Hour at Bruce ('65) and Gail Grosetta's place, 3349 N Calle Tortosa. Look for the chapter banner freshly embroidered with our 2019 distinguished chapter status. The gate code is 1909. You'll have to enter the neighborhood from the main gate off of

Sabino Canyon Rd. Show up around 1630. They'll have drinks covered. You bring your go-to appetizer and your best there-I-was stories to share. I'll bring cool AF merchandise to give away to a couple of lucky attendees.

- **Sat 28 Sep:** USAFA night at Flying Leap Vineyards down south in Elgin, AZ. Tickets will be \$25 per person at the door. That will pay for dinner, two glasses of wine (the glasses are yours to keep) and 20% off wines and spirits. If you're interested in doing some sort of party bus down there and back, let me know. If we can hit critical mass, I'll have someone on my team look into options. If you have any insights on party bus options and you'd like to perform a valuable service to the chapter, let me know. If you haven't heard the story of the three USAFA grads who created Flying Leap, [click here to see their website](#).
- **5 Oct:** Navy football game watch party. Nothing is planned yet! If you have any ideas let me know and I'll put out the details prior to the game.

Chapter President's Conference

Bizzy and I attended the AOG's annual Chapter President's Conference on 28 and 29 Aug. We covered quite a bit of ground over a couple of lengthy days. My favorite topics are the long-form, philosophical stuff, but for the sake of keeping you awake for another couple of paragraphs, I'll just give you the highlights:

- The AOG board has voted to make all grads AOG members regardless of dues status. They still need to work out some finance details, and final words should come out after the next meeting. Southern Arizona AOG, you've always been a Southern Arizona AOG Chapter member by virtue of being a grad and living here. Shortly, you'll also be a member of the national group. Neither will cost you a dime.
- Check out these two recent roll-outs from the AOG.
 - [The AOG Career Center](#)
 - [ZoomieLink](#)
- One could argue that the primary function of an alumni organization is to provide networking opportunities to its members. The career center and ZoomieLink are examples of the AOG doing just that. I'll admit that I was highly skeptical when I was asked to be a beta tester for ZoomieLink. I

highly skeptical when I was asked to be a beta tester for ZoomiLink. I have a baseline distrust of social media in general and my expectations were low. As it turns out, if you're looking for a job, a mentor, startup capital, advice on an industry, advice on how to enter politics, or just a fellow grad to have a beer with on that overnight in Phillie, ZoomiLink is a great tool. As the name implies, it's like LinkedIn but only for grads. Put up a profile (you can do it via your LinkedIn profile if you have one) and connect with some of the incredibly talented folks who have graduated from our school.

- The AOG is moving toward having much closer ties with Cadet Parent Clubs and cadet candidates via USAFA ALOs to take advantage of the synergies of the "USAFA Family." That's why you saw the class of '23 appointees at Founder's Day this year and why you'll continue to see more of that in the future.

News from the Hill

Bizzy and I attended several briefings from USAFA leadership at the conference to include the Superintendent, Lt Gen Silveria ('85), the Comm, BG Edmondson, the Dean, Col Letendre ('96) and the Athletic Director, Mr. Nathan Pine who was the speaker at our Founder's Day event. Here are some highlights:

- Parent involvement is much higher than it used to be. Assuming you're a decade or a few decades removed from the Zoo, think of the most parents you could possibly imagine showing up for the Acceptance Parade, the one where the new class marches into the wing to become Fourth Classmen after BCT. Hold that number in your mind for a minute and then compare it to how many showed up this year...4000. I think there were 10 at mine, and they were all faculty members.
- 62% of new parents have zero military experience. That's one of the reasons that combining efforts among AOG members, Parent's Clubs and ALOs is so important. There are a lot of talented kids in Southern Arizona who have no idea what options are available to them to attend a service academy. Please look for opportunities to be a mentor!
- 65% of the class of 2019 went to operational career fields, to include 500 pilot slots.
- If you didn't get a chance to look at the chapel last week, you'll have to

wait for up to four years. The good news; when you next see it, the organ will be fully functional for the first time since about 1963 when it started being inundated every time it rained.

- The planetarium is reopened and it's a huge hit. It's a bit like being inside a spherical iMax theatre. Shows are free, so definitely stop in when you're up there.
- There's plenty more that I'll tell you about over the next couple of months.

Football!

I've always been and I'll always be a big fan of Air Force Football. In four days, the Falcons will travel up to Boulder to play the Colorado University Buffaloes and I'm pretty excited. When I was a cadet, it had already been 14 years since the last game against CU, and I wondered why. It seemed like a very natural fit to have an intra-Colorado round-robin with AFA, CU and CSU much like the Command-in-Chief's trophy setup. Today, I read this [article in the Colorado Springs Gazette](#) and it answered the question that I've had all these years in addition to making me anticipate the game that much more. There are a lot of Southern Arizona grads who attended those games. If you're one of them, you should go to the [Chapter's Facebook Page](#) and give us your account of what it was like.

Until then, see you at the Grosetta's on Friday and Flying Leap on the 28th!

Be proud, wear the colors, and Go Falcons!



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