

**Minutes of the General Meeting of
The Southeast Texas Air Force Academy Parents Assoc.
Oct. 15, 2006
Events Center, 5800 Airline Drive, Houston, Texas**

Steve Vorhies, President, called the meeting to order. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and then recognized the Prep School parents, and parents of each of the Classes of the Academy. Steve then recognized and thanked Steve and Carmen Collins for making the Events Center available for the meeting. A collection was passed to cover the Collin's maintenance and utility costs for the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Louanne Reeves summarized the current financial situation of the Budget. There is a current balance, as of 10/15/06, of \$4,728.69. There is one outstanding invoice of \$94.87 for laser graphics. There are still a number of outstanding membership fees due, given the increase that was agreed in the August meeting to raise annual membership fees to \$35. Expenses included the 2nd Class Commitment coins, the 4th class summer pool party, Website fees, nametags, and postage. Laser graphics, the Club's main fundraiser, has had a profit to date of \$328.84.

It was noted that only paid members would receive Military Ball invitations.

A raffle was held at the meeting for one of the commitment coins and an AOG AF Christmas ornament.

Ticket costs were \$1. Later, the tickets were drawn and the two prizes were awarded.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commitment Recognition: Steve Voorhees explained the re-instatement of the 2nd class commitment coins and the significance of the process of commitment. Coins were distributed to SETXAFAPA 2nd degree cadets during Commitment week in Aug..

Constitution and By-Laws: These have been updated, as per voted resolution in the past meeting and have been placed on the website for all to see the roles of the officers, functions of the club, calendar, etc.. Steve Vorhies thanked Dody Cortner for this task, and for achieving enough hours to receive an ExxonMobil Volunteer Involvement Fund grant of \$500 for the Club.

Navy Game Tailgate Event: Laura Parker talked briefly of the Navy Game Tailgate Party and that the learnings from that event were being documented for future planning reference. A slide show of the key activities from that weekend was later shared with all.

Parent's Weekend USAFA/Club Representatives: Steve Voorhees summarized several issues that he discussed with the USAFA Superintendent Regni and other key Administrators, as part of the Parent's weekend Club officers meeting.

- 1) Mitchell Hall: The first issue was the quality and services of Mitchell Hall. While USAFA is allocated \$4.75/meal/cadet, they have to supplement this to about \$8/meal, and yet there is extreme waste of food. Steve referred to a letter on FamNet about the status of issues, and that there have been steps taken to rectify the issues. There are Focus Groups providing input, and Cadets should be encouraged to use the Chain of Command and feedback forms for Mitchell Hall issues, as well as any other issues to be addressed.
- 2) 3rd Degree Jump slots: The second issue was the recent change to allow 4th degree cadets with high grades to do tandem jumps – thereby displacing jump slots for 3rd degree cadets, and perhaps making it very challenging for 3rd degree cadets to get into the program. Steve followed up with the Registrar's office after Parents Weekend and was advised that the 3rd degree jump slots, and flights, would be re-instated.
- 3) Summer Ops Incidents: Steve shared information about an incident from the Summer Ops program in 2006 at the Ramstien AFB in Germany. Apparently several cadets violated the safety/minimum number of cadets out in the public, and got into trouble in a bar, and were put into jail. As a result, all cadets at the AFB were punished and lost the privilege of an F-16 ride. There were 8 other serious incidents around the globe during Summer Ops. Steve used this occasion to re-enforce to parents, as mentors of their cadets, to ensure the cadets understand the importance of appropriate behaviors at all times. The special nature of a cadet's duties and selection set a high standard for role-model behaviors, and these kinds of incidents can be seriously damaging

to their AF careers. AF cadets are more than college students and their image, and high standards are indicative of their career-long training to be officers and leaders.

4) Flight Screening: There are changes to the Flight Screening process (the 25 hr Basic Airmanship course assessment prior to UPT screening). This screening used to be done after graduation from the Academy, now it will occur before graduation. And private pilot screening will no longer waive some of the AF screening.

5) Flight Physicals: Apparently the flight physical for 2nd degrees should have occurred in the spring of 2006, prior to commitment. For some reason the Class of '08 missed the deadline, and these are now in progress. Terry Hart thanked Steve Voorhees for being a spokesperson and representing the cadet's issues to the USAFA Management group. Steve recognized that the cadets have the primary role, through the Chain of Command, to represent these issues, vs the parents, and that he felt that Supt. Regni has made appropriate efforts and focus on these issues in the short time he has been there.

HOMEcomings FOR HEROS: Steve circulated a notice from the Navy Club about an event at the 2nd Baptist Church the next weekend to honor midshipmen and other military personnel, called "Homecoming for Heroes".

PARENTS WEEKEND:

The football schedule for future Parent's weekends will be:

2007 - South Carolina State

2008 - Portland State

2009 - University of Northern Colorado

2010 - University of Alabama

2011- Florida State

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Steve recruited one member from each of the classes to become the Nominating Committee to bring forward a slate of Club Officers for member voting at the Winter meeting (January, 2007). The elected officers would then assume duties at the Spring meeting in 2007.

Sandy Carp, Class of 2007, will chair the committee, assisted by Claudia Williams ('08), Laura Parker ('09), and Joanie Bain ('10). Karen Long noted they were awaiting the paid membership fees before distributing club rosters, but would email the current roster to the Committee.

WEBSITE: Steve introduced and recognized Frank Buehner, Webmaster, for his fine efforts to maintain the club website. Please email Frank pictures from Parents Weekend or the Navy Tailgate weekend for posting on the website. Frank's email address is: webmaster06@setxafapa.org

LASER GRAPHICS: Carol Murphy currently manages this fund-raising activity and is looking for a successor. Interested volunteers are asked to speak with Carol about the role and duties. A volunteer will be solicited at the winter meeting. It was noted that the items make wonderful cadet or sponsor or family gifts and can be ordered from the website at: www.setxafapa.org

MINUTES: Minutes of the last meeting were distributed. Steve allowed time for members to read the minutes then asked for corrections. There were none noted. Later, a motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and approved. Draft minutes from this meeting will be posted on the website for review/comments prior to the next quarterly meeting.

PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING PLANS:

The winter meeting will be held January 28 at 2PM, at the Events Center again. Agenda items will include the Election of Officers, Reflection on the Military Ball and forward Plans, a briefing for 2007 graduates on the mandatory Air and Space Basics Course at Maxwell AFB, and a briefing on Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) and what to expect for that year of life post-graduation.

Spring meeting (typically April): The plan will be to honor and bid farewell to 2007 graduate families, and to have the change of officers. Steve Vorhies also promised a special topic for the graduating families.

FORCED SHAPING OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL: Colonel Ray Taylor presented materials describing the Forced Shaping of active-duty AF personnel. The planned reduction of 40,000 personnel by 2009 (accelerated from the original target of 2011), will be about a 10% reduction. These reductions are driven by budget pressures for staff and benefits costs, as well as new aircraft costs. The Colonel encouraged the parents, as their cadet mentors, to emphasize the importance of excellent behavior and standings in all aspects of the career AF cadet, starting now, while at the Academy/Prep Schools. The AF is moving more toward the “combat warrior” skills, with preference placed on these and related Specialty Codes (eg, combat controller, weather, rescue, etc..) Reductions of active duty personnel will occur through various means, including voluntary separation, selective early retirement, and/or early relief of duty obligation. Everyone thanked the Colonel for sharing this valuable information. Steve Vorhies also later recognized Steve and Carmen Collins, Events Center owners, for purchasing the projection equipment for the presentation.

MILITARY BALL: Madonna Boyd, SETXAFAPA rep on the Navy Military Ball Planning Committee, updated everyone on the plans for the Military Ball, Dec. 26. Invitations were distributed to paid members that were present. Madonna described the beautiful 8 inch bowl with laser engraving of the Academy crest that is being sold as a fund-raiser for the 2006 Military Ball. The cost is \$25, and makes a lovely and useful sponsor, family or cadet memento. Volunteers are needed for check-in. Party Pics will do the picture taking, and orders will be placed on-line, after the event.

Parents are asked to send approximately 5 photos/cadet of activities, events, groups, etc. for display at the Ball. Parents should send these photos to militaryball@aol.com

AF Cadets will receive \$100 as a gift from the Parent’s clubs. West Point has raised concern about the award of gifts, and those related cadets will be notified their gift is to be donated. There was also discussion that the Navy has proposed SETXAFAPA pay \$1500 for the USAFA toast. Members felt that since the club has already donated \$7000 for the event – a figure about twice the historical amount - no further costs were justified or supported. Steve Vorhies was authorized to represent this issue to the Military Ball committee. Steve also commented that at the winter meeting we will discuss our continued support of the Joint Military Ball, or other alternatives, such as possibly hosting a separate event.

ADJOURNMENT: Steve Vorhies summarized the meeting and thanked everyone, again, for such great attendance in support of our Cadets – in particular the new members of the Class of 2010, including the Prep School families. He shared a safety reminder for the drive home. He then thanked the Collins’ for making their facility available for the meeting. Several parents shared their cadet’s recent or summer experiences. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed, and the meeting was adjourned. Families then packed Halloween candy for mailing to their cadets.