



Arizona Territorial Chapter AUSA – March 2013 Newsletter

Association of the United States Army (AUSA)

SPRING/March 2013

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Membership:
Together we are Stronger!

Thanks to all of our Corporate Sponsors!



Voice for the Army - Support for the Soldier

Chapter President's Message



COL (Ret) Gene Rafanelli
AZ Territorial Chapter 7202
Chapter President

The Chapter is off to a great 2013 start, albeit, not without some challenges on the horizon.

The good news is that we just completed our highly successful Annual Awards Luncheon on 10 February, giving the Chapter the privilege to honor our great soldiers and ROTC cadets and to hear an inspiring presentation by MG (Ret) David P. Rataczak, the former AZ State Adjutant General.

Chapter members continue to support those who make great contributions within the military community. On 20 January, Chapter members helped bid farewell and to wish the 819th Sapper Company success in their Afghanistan deployment. Speedpro Imaging produced a unit banner which was signed by hundreds of well-wishers and presented to the Company Commander at the conclusion of the ceremony.

On 13 February, Chapter members honored two great Arizonans at the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society's Copper Shield/Copper Sword Awards Gala. State Congresswoman Heather

Carter received the Copper Shield Award for legislation which she sponsored that provides employment preference to veterans seeking jobs with the state, counties, cities and other political subdivisions. Dr. Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University, received the Copper Sword Award. Dr. Crow led efforts to establish a Naval ROTC program at the University and opened the Pat Tillman Veterans Center to bring together academic and student support facilities for veterans while pursuing their degrees.

The Army, along with the other Services remains besieged by the dark cloud of sequestration which continues to hang over our heads. GEN Sullivan has provided extraordinary leadership on Capitol Hill and in the Pentagon to avert the dire consequences these measures will have on our national security. We all must help. AUSA members must be "activists" in the community by letting elected leaders know how this will adversely impact the Army's ability to perform its vital mission. As a minimum, you can use AUSA generated letters which can be accessed via links in the AUSA publications which you receive.

The second thing we must do is maintain robust membership rolls at all levels. The strength of our message is in our numbers when dealing with Congress, the media and Administra-

tion leaders. Accordingly, everyone must help by bringing new members into our ranks. If you have a prospect, contact me at rafanelli@flash.net, on my cell at (408) 896-7616 or any of the Chapter officers listed at the rear of this newsletter. We will personally contact prospective members, explain the benefits of an AUSA membership and help them fill out the application.



The Chapter Executive Committee and Board of Directors meet at 1:00 P.M. on the first Tuesday of each month. All members are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting as a means of becoming actively involved in the Chapter. The meeting is held at the Papago Park Military Reservation (PPMR) located at 52nd Street and McDowell Road. Enter the reservation on the north side of McDowell at the first gate east of 52nd Street. The meeting is held in the Distance Learning Center which is co-located in the same building as the Clothing Sales Store. Ask the gate guard for directions. If you get lost, call Gene on his cell at (408) 896-7616. Occasionally, the meeting will be hosted off site. When that occurs, the information will be conveyed ahead of time in the agenda.



MG Rataczak addresses the attendees at the Annual Chapter Awards Luncheon



Corporate sponsors, sustaining members & honored guests enjoy the luncheon



Arizona StandDown ~ Volunteers Are Still Needed!

Volunteers are still needed to assist at the AZ StandDown for Homeless Veterans March 8-10, 2013. This event will be held in the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum at the State Fair Grounds in Phoenix. If you want to volunteer, you must do so in advance. Go online at <http://www.arizonastanddown.org> to sign up. Volunteers can select a shift of four (4) hours or longer.

Approximately 1500 homeless or at-risk veterans are expected to visit the StandDown site during the three day event. Project Connect provides a guest guide for each of the veterans. Volunteers serve in the role of guest guide and insure the veterans have an opportunity to use the services that are being provided.

Services include more than 70 housing, healthcare and support services. Major service providers include the VA, Social Security Administration, Motor Vehicle Division, and Municipal and Superior Court Systems. Clothing, meals, showers, haircuts and housing placement services are provided.

Not only is this the largest StandDown in the state of Arizona, it is the largest and most successful StandDown in the United States. Please be a part of it and volunteer online. If you are not able to volunteer to be a guest guide, you can go to the StandDown website and make a financial donation.

Ask about the "Red Shirt Friday" T-Shirt Sales
Art Slone 480-688-0066

AAR 2013 Annual AUSA Chapter Awards Luncheon

After Action Review (AAR): The Chapter hosted a well attended 2013 Annual Awards Luncheon on 10 February at the renowned McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Our sincere gratitude was conveyed to our great Corporate Sponsors and Sustaining Members, who were the Chapter's invited guests. Outstanding soldiers and cadets from the AZ Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, Phoenix Recruiting Battalion and Senior ROTC programs were honored.

The featured speaker was MG (Ret) David P. Rataczak, the former State Adjutant General of Arizona. MG Rataczak eloquently addressed the pitfalls of sequestration and the necessity to implement every means available to avert it.

Twenty-two awards were presented, with the Task Force Smith saber going to Cadet Noah K. Russell from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The Arizona State University Army ROTC Color Guard posted the Colors and April Manchester graced the event with her beautiful voice, singing the National Anthem and "God Bless the U.S.A."

Do You Want to Help Present JROTC/ROTC AUSA Medals?

Each year, during the months of April and May, Chapter members present AUSA medals to deserving Army JROTC and ROTC cadets at 25 schools. Most of these schools are located in the Greater Phoenix Area. The medals are mailed to the schools in advance and are prepared for presentation by the instructors. Presenters ~ who can be any Chapter member ~ must be at the school at the

specified date and time to participate. The presentation ceremonies usually last about an hour or less and the participation of a Chapter member means a great deal to the school and cadets.

If you would like to help out, or for more information and schedules, contact Gene Rafanelli at cell number (408) 896-7616 or email rafanell@flash.net.

Arizona Territorial Chapter Website <http://www3.ausa.org/chapweb/atc/index.html>

All of our members and friends are encouraged to make use of our outstanding Arizona Territorial Chapter Website. It contains details of Chapter upcoming events, as well as, payment options and procedures for those events. The names and contact information

for the Chapter Officers are listed, along with links to many resources such as other service organizations and discounts offered to veterans by selected merchants.

To access the website, go to the address listed above and check it out!





2013 CHAPTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 29 March, Task Force Smith Golf Tournament
- 9 June, Army Birthday/Flag Day Luncheon
- 26 November, 25th AFCOD

See Falcon Dunes Golf Course at <http://www.lukeevents.com/sections/golf%20course/golfcourse.html>

Task Force Smith Golf Tournament

The annual Task Force Smith Golf Tournament is coming your way on March 29th. The tournament is scheduled for Friday, 29 March 2013, at the Luke Air Force Base Falcon Dunes Golf Course in Glendale. Players will be limited to 144, and reservations will be accepted in the order in which they are received. We encourage all of our members, friends and corporate sponsors to participate as this is our only fund raiser during the year and all the proceeds go toward our contributions to the active, reserve and national guard soldiers and their families, as well as, the ROTC and JROTC units at the four major universities and high schools in Arizona.

Put the Task Force Smith Golf Tournament on your calendar and come on out and enjoy the sun at one of the best courses in the Valley: Falcon Dunes. Please consider giving this event your full support as it is our only fund raiser of the year. If you can't play, you can donate to us either on-line, at our website or by mail. You'll be getting a flyer in the mail and a reminder by email. We also have posted the same information on our website OR, before you forget it, you can contact Rance Farrell at 602-993-8556 or send an email to hrrfarrell@cox.net to sign up.

Army Birthday/Flag Day Luncheon

Our Chapter's Army Birthday/Flag Day luncheon will be held on the 9th of June at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club in Scottsdale. We will be celebrating the 238th birthday of the United States Army in addition to Flag Day. A special program is planned and will be posted along with sign-up information in the Summer Newsletter. Mark your calendar now for this great event.

25th Armed Forces Career Offers Day

The 25th Armed Forces Career Officers Day will be held at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club for more than 200 Junior ROTC cadets, plus sponsors, on 26 November. In addition to participation by more than 20 institutions that confer commissions, plans are being made for attendance by the original founders of this great event. Details will be published at a later date.

Other Notable 2013 Events

- * On 21 March at 1300 there will be a **Missing in America Program (MIAP)** Committal Service held at the Ft. Huachuca National Cemetery for the internment of the remains of 20 veterans.
- * The **AUSA 7th Region Annual Conference** will be hosted by the Pike's Peak Chapter at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs from 24 – 27 April. Information regarding signing-up for this event and a detailed agenda will be posted on the Chapter website shortly. A major part of the program will include a full day visit to nearby Ft. Carson and the 4th Infantry Division, hosted by MG Joe Anderson. Members are encouraged to attend and may direct questions to Rance Farrell, 7th Region President at hrrfarrell@cox.net.
- * Our Chapter will participate in and be a sponsor for the 17 – 18 May 2013 **National Guard Association of Arizona's (NGAAZ) 64th Annual Conference** at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa in Chandler. There will be activities for the whole family to include: shopping, hiking, casino gambling and nearby golf. If your organization would like to also sponsor this event, contact LTC (Ret) Mike Krouse at (602) 275-8305 or CW5 John Vitt at (602) 267-2714. Go to the NGAAZ website at <http://www.ngaaz.org/> for more information.
- * There will be a **Memorial Day Service** at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona on Monday May 27th. Participants should be at the Cemetery by 0700. Our Territorial Chapter will be presenting and laying a wreath during the ceremony.



Arizona Territorial Chapter 7202 AUSA

Chapter President

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We are the Arizona Territorial Chapter of AUSA, dedicated to assisting and supporting our troops and cadets in any way we can. Our local Phoenix Recruiting Battalion is our only active duty unit and they do a fabulous job of providing our Army with quality soldiers. We also work closely with the Phoenix based Headquarters of the Arizona Army National Guard, as well as, U.S. Army Reserve units, and all JROTC/ROTC programs located in our Chapter area. We show our support for our troops by being there for them and their families during deployments, through the presentation of awards and recognizing our outstanding cadets and soldiers, in addition to promoting the recruiting mission. We are proud of all of these activities, which we are able to sustain by holding our annual Golf Tournament fund-drive. All who are interested in helping us to support our Army, we encourage you to join our Chapter ~ whether you have an Army or military background, or not. *We are looking for people who care!*

Come join us ... we're on the web!

<http://www3.ausa.org/chapweb/atc/index.html>

Voice for the Army - Support for the Soldier

Association of the United States Army Arizona Territorial Chapter

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