



# Arizona Territorial Chapter AUSA – October 2012 Newsletter

FALL/October 2012

Voice for the Army - Support for the Soldier

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Our Chapter provides custom made banners for soldiers' yellow ribbon events



Well wishers compose messages to add to the 258th Engineer Company banner



## Chapter President's Message



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

We hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to giving your air conditioners a rest. We're rapidly approaching the time again for the annual Junior ROTC Armed Forces Career Officers Day (AFCOD) luncheon which will be held on 20 November at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club in Scottsdale. This will be the 24<sup>th</sup> year that your AUSA Chapter, with support from other service organizations in the Valley, has sponsored this event. We encourage everyone to attend and sponsor a table of cadets, if possible. You'll not only help to make the event a success for 200+ cadets, but you'll also get credit for a charitable contribution and receive a letter accordingly for tax purposes. Read below for detailed information on the event.

Let me update you on a few activities your Chapter has been involved in since the Summer Newsletter was published: In June we donated \$1,200 to the AZ Department of Veterans' Services Military Family Assistance Fund. This fund is

used to help the families of deployed soldiers.

On 10 June we celebrated the 237<sup>th</sup> birthday of the U.S. Army with an event at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. We were treated to a special presentation by Pacheco Peak Park Ranger James Head commemorating the 150 Anniversary of the Civil War Battle of Pacheco Pass.

On 23 June and 11 July members of our Chapter participated in the farewell Yellow Ribbon events for the 850<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion and the 258<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, respectively. See photos taken at those events posted on the left side of this column.

On 9 September we participated with 28 other service organizations to support the Phoenix Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars for the 48<sup>th</sup> Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance. It was held at Carl Hayden Community High School in Phoenix.

On 14-16 September, the three Arizona AUSA Chapters sponsored an all-expense paid week-end for four Wounded Warriors to the DD Gamble Guest Ranch in Portal, AZ. We have dedicated a separate article with photos of the get-away in this newsletter.

Finally, we had to sadly bid farewell to a great World War II hero and veteran of four combat parachute jumps, Dan Georgevich, who

passed away on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Dan passed away on the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first combat jump into Normandy in the early hours of the Allied invasion.

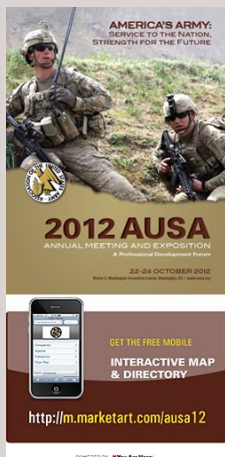
I encourage you to mark your calendars for the following upcoming events and look forward to your participation:

- 22 to 24 October, AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition
- 20 November, Armed Forces Career Officers Day
- 10 February, Chapter Awards Luncheon
- 8 to 10 March, Arizona Veterans Stand Down
- 29 March, Task Force Smith Golf Tournament

The latest roster of our Chapter Executive Committee and Board of Directors is located on the last page of this newsletter. These folks are committed to serving our great members and are at your service. Do not hesitate to contact them for any AUSA issues.

Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 P.M. in the Distance Learning Center at the Papago Park Military Reservation located at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and McDowell. Chapter members are invited to attend. If you need directions, please call me on my cell at (408) 896-7616.





**“YOUR BATTLE BUDDIES ARE IMPORTANT TO OUR CHAPTER”**



**Carriage drawn by miniature horses**

## The 2012 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition is Almost Here

The 2012 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition will take place 22-24 October at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

Since 1950, the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) has worked to support all aspects of national security while advancing the interests of America's Army and the men and women who serve.

AUSA is a private, non-profit educational organization that supports America's Army - Active, National Guard, Reserve, Civilians, Retirees, Government Civilians, Wounded Warriors, Veterans, and family members. AUSA provides numerous Professional Development Opportunities at a variety of events both local and national.

Held every October in Washington D.C., the AUSA Annual Meeting & Exposition is one of the largest land warfare exhibitions and professional development forums in the world.

The Annual Meeting consists of informative presentations, panel discussions on pertinent military and national security subjects, workshops and important AUSA business meetings. The three day event also includes over 700 industry and military exhibits occupying over 700,000 square feet of exhibit space. Presentations on the state of the Army and related defense subjects are given by the Secretary of the Army, the Army Chief of Staff and other senior Army and Department of Defense (DoD) representatives.

The event provides a unique opportunity to showcase defense industry products and services to key Army and DoD decision-makers, discover new developments in defense technology and meet with colleagues from the world-wide defense community.

Several Chapter members will be attending this event and bring us back the latest news.

## Membership - Bring a Buddy

Your old Army buddy is important to your Chapter. Please consider talking to him or her about joining our chapter. Over the past couple of years our chapter has lost about 150 members as some of our older members pass or move on.

In order to remain a strong and forceful voice in Washington to protect the benefits we earned with our service to our Nation, and were promised by our politicians, we need your buddy to join us. Please talk with him/her, or give his/her name and contact information to our Membership Chair, Rob Welch, or to Gene Rafanelli (our President) and we'll talk with him. If we have any slots available, we might even be able to give him a free membership lasting at least 6 months!

You can help us stay strong. Talk with your buddy today.

## Wounded Warrior Weekend at DD Gamble Guest Ranch

The three Arizona Chapters of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) organized a 14-16 September all expense paid week-end getaway at the Davidson's Dream (DD) Gamble Guest Lodge and Hideout Ranch near Portal, AZ for four Wounded Warriors. The open-country ranch, consisting of 325 acres of desert lands, is nestled between the picturesque Chiricahua and Peloncillo mountains of southern Arizona near the New Mexico state line. The Portal area is renowned for its frontier style of living.

Our guest Warriors were treated to plenty of good food provided by lodge owners Tom and Alicia Davidson, horseback riding, miniature horse drawn carriage rides, exploring the canyons and mountains, as well as, star and sun gazing with specialized telescopes provided by a local astronomer. Three of the Warriors came from the Warrior Transition Unit (WTU) at Fort Huachuca and one came from "Heroes to Hometowns", a Phoenix based Wounded Warrior resource center. The Advocate for the latter is Kathy Pearce. All of the Wounded Warriors were veterans of the global war on terrorism.

Funding was provided by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and generous donations from our Chapter members. This event was so well received, that our AZ AUSA Chapters are considering future iterations of the week-end. We hope that the Wounded Warriors know how much we appreciate their sacrifices!



Dulce the Mule joined the organizers and sponsors of the Wounded Warrior Weekend Getaway, honoring wounded warriors from Fort Huachuca and the Phoenix area. Left to right standing: Brittney Hoffman, Dulce the Mule, Tom Davidson, Tim Soliz, Michele Soliz, Alicia Davidson, Gene Rafanelli, Craig Lawson, Tamara Lawson, Dori Brooks, Ray Brooks Left to right kneeling: Steven Hays, Richard Cruz, and Laurentin Walker (the wounded warriors). Missing from the photo is Anna Patton. Photo and caption extracted from the September 24, 2012 Sierra Vista Herald



Warriors relaxing at the Hideout Ranch

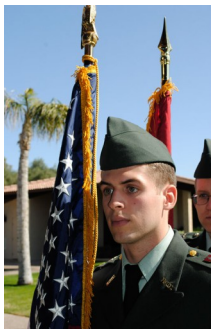


Miniature horses at the DD Gamble Guest Lodge and Hideout Ranch



Warriors and friends gather at the hitching rail after a long ride

### Junior ROTC Armed Forces Career Officers Day (AFCOD)



On 20 November 2012 our Territorial Chapter will hold the 24<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Career Officers Day (AFCOD) at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club. The purpose of the event is to acquaint Junior ROTC cadets to the challenges and rewards of service to the country as commissioned officers. The event focuses on all branches of the Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard and the Merchant Marines. Representatives will be present from commissioning institutions such as: the Service Academies, ROTC, military institutes and Officer Candidate School (OCS). Last year we had tables representing 20 Organizations that confer commissions. Moreover, we had over 200 cadets from 36 high schools and more than 100 other sponsors and guests. It was the best event so far and we're striving to make it even better this year with a static helicopter display.

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The event flyer is attached to the newsletter for your convenience. To offset the expense of hosting the cadets, who partici-

pate at no cost to themselves, you can sponsor a table of eight for \$200 or a half table for \$100. Also, you can attend for \$30 per person or if you are unable to attend, but would like to sponsor a cadet, we encourage you to do so for \$30.

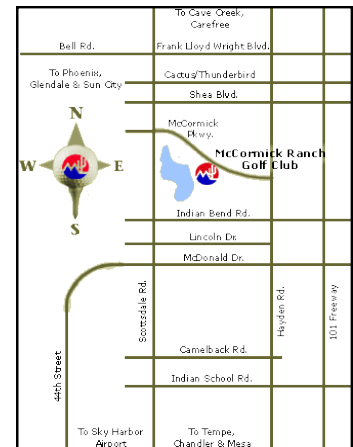
During the lunch, you and your guest will be seated with a group of cadets and their instructor. At that time, you'll become acquainted with these fine young students and they with you. You'll hear two short presentations from young officers who will convey their impressions of service as commissioned officers and recount their recent experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

We hope you'll decide to make this event a success for 200+ Junior ROTC cadets. You can do this by filling out the attached form and mailing it in to COL (Ret) Rance Farrell at the address shown or go to our website at <http://www3.ausa.org/chapweb/atc/index.html>. Follow the instructions to use your favorite payment option and remember, this is a tax deductible charitable contribution. Thanks for your support!

**Armed Forces  
Career  
Officers Day**

**When:**  
11/20/2012  
10:30AM - 2:00PM

**Where:**  
McCormick Ranch  
Golf Club



**McCormick Ranch Golf Club**  
7505 McCormick Pkwy  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258  
(480) 998-3800



**Arizona Territorial  
Chapter 7202 AUSA**

Chapter President  
COL (Ret) Gene Rafanelli  
12631 East Lupine Avenue  
Phone: (H)480-272-8302  
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Email: rafanell@flash.net



We are the Arizona Territorial Chapter of the AUSA Association, working always to help and support our troops in any way we can. Our local Phoenix Recruiting Battalion is our only active duty unit and they are doing a fabulous job of supporting our Army with quality soldiers. The Arizona Army National Guard is headquartered in Phoenix. We also work closely with USAR units. We help all these units by supporting them and their families on deployments, by awards to outstanding soldiers and by helping in the recruiting mission. Additionally, we assist the ROTC and JROTC programs based in our Chapter area. We are proud of all these activities, which we support by our annual fund drive golf tournament. We encourage all who are interested in support our Army to join, whether they have an Army or military background or not. We're looking for good people!

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**

<b>Chapter EXCOM</b>		<b>Board of Directors</b>	
President Gene Rafanelli (Judie)	COL (Ret) (480) 272-8302	President Vic Conner (Sharon)	LTC (Ret) (480) 595-1941
1st VP (Programs) Dave Sale (Cathy)	COL (Ret) (480) 747-5111	Dave Kauchek (Marian)	MG (Ret) (602) 339-3788
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Secretary & VP for Educ Shari Roe	CIV (480) 678-1575	Len Lai (Di)	COL (Ret) (480) 595-8648
VP Gen Membership Rob Welch (Ronnie)	COL (Ret) (480) 292-5822	Max Butler	CSM (602) 267-2604
VP Publicity Dean Campbell (Sondra)	CPT (Ret) (480) 596-4075	Joe Schwan	SSG (Ret) (480) 945-6381
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Asst VP Corp Mbrs Jody Wilkerson (Gina)	LTC (Ret) (623) 256-6400	Roy Coulson (Baerbel)	COL (Ret) (480) 991-9797
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VP NG/Res Affairs Jeanne Blaes, PhD	COL (Ret) (602) 377-8764	Biff Messinger	COL (Ret) (602) 564-2062
VP Publishing Borg Siburg (Ann)	CIV (480) 326-8483	Bob Rudolph	COL (USAR) (480) 628-1785
VP Recruiting Issues "Tiny" Brennan	CPT (602) 318-8538	Rance Farrell (Susan) 7th Region Pres	COL (Ret) (602) 993-8556
VP Enlisted Aff. Charles Daniels (Yoshimi)	1SG (Ret) (602) 237-2726	Vic Conner (Sharon) AZ State President	LTC (Ret) (480) 595-1941
VP ROTC Support Alex Bowman	CPT (480) 965-7612		
VP Web & Commo Mary Vetrano (Ronn)	CIV (480) 981-4674		
VP USAR Issues Jim Caryl	LTC (Ret) (480) 209-6406		

## JROTC and Armed Forces Career Officer Day Luncheon Supported by all Armed Services

**Date:** Tuesday 20 November 2012

**Time:** 1130 (Cadets arrive 1030 to visit displays)

**Note:** two helicopters from the AZ ARNG will be on site

**Location:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club  
7505 E. McCormick Parkway  
Scottsdale 85258



**Please select below and submit your payment NLT 9 November**

You can pay by credit card/Pay Pal on line at our web page

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

Or by submitting a check in the mail. Make check payable to AUSA and mail to:

COL (Ret) Rance Farrell [hrfarrell@cox.net](mailto:hrfarrell@cox.net)

14629 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St

Phoenix, AZ 85022

**Detach and mail form below. Table sponsors add a short "bio" for the cadets' information if you wish.**

-----  
 Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Your phone \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to sponsor a full table (8) at \$200 (2 free seats).

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to sponsor a half table at \$100 (1 free seat).

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend myself at \$30 per person. Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend myself but will sponsor \_\_\_ Cadet(s) at \$30 per person \_\_\_\_\_ Amount

\* MENU: Thanksgiving meal. Special diet available upon request.