



Fall 2010 Newsletter

Notes from Rance

I keep using the word exciting about our Chapter activities but that’s how we all feel about it. We have reached “critical mass” in support to deploying and returning units where they are now asking to us for our support. We have also been working more closely with our great corporate sponsors, linking them up with these units so they can support each other. For example, TASER “adopted” the 855th MP Co and in turn got some great feedback on their products from the military user perspective. We are emphasizing the feedback process with other companies too, so if you are interested in being a part of it please let me know. Our next event is the 23 November JROTC COD luncheon. We are already obtaining support from sponsors and interest from schools that do not have an “official” DOD JROTC program but do have students interested in gaining a commission in any service. If you know of any such schools please let Gene or me know – we will make room for more! We have the support of our sister service organizations; the Coast Guard, AFA, MOAA, MOWW, and the Navy League etc

Listed here are where we spent our dollars in support of the troops since the Spring Newsletter: Honor & Remember Flag project for the Gold Star Mother’s of Arizona; Madison Street Veterans Association in support of homeless veterans; ASU Gammage – Tickets for Military Families; Arizona National Guard Family Assistance Program; Deployment/Return Support for the following units: 1/415th Regiment; 3666th SMC; 301st MI Bn; 1404th TC; 855th MP Co; Outstanding Achievement Awards to 6 ROTC Cadets and 15 Active, Reserve and Guard Soldiers; AUSA Memberships to: 1 Civilian, 96 ROTC Cadets, 24 Soldiers.

“What have we done for the troops today?” is our motto and remains our prime focus. Thank you for all your support and I hope to see you at one of these events.

1404th Transportation Company Welcome Home

"The "welcome home" events for the 1404th Transportation Company took place over a two-day period on 10 and 11 July in Show Low. The Saturday, 10 July event was a barbeque/picnic on the outskirts of Show Low. The event was sponsored by VFW Post #9907 who barbequed more than 200 steaks purchased with local donations. The AZ Territorial Chapter provided a 10 foot full color banner prepared by Speedpro Imaging of Scottsdale with the words "Welcome Home" inscribed on it and the 1404th's unit logos at either end. The banner was prominently displayed and used by many soldiers and their families as a photo backdrop. On Sunday the formal welcome ceremony took place in the Show Low High School auditorium. COL (P) Matthew Brown, the Deputy Arizona State Adjutant General, presented a commemorative plaque and an encased, folded American flag to every soldier and family.

Susan and Rance Farrell and Gene and Judie Rafanelli set up an AUSA table and cut and served cake with frosting depicting the aforementioned banner, to soldiers and their families.



Honor and Remember Across America

Our Chapter worked for nearly two months assisting the Arizona Chapter of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. to organize an event in Phoenix to garner support for the adoption of an official Gold Star flag. A Gold Star Mother is one whose son or daughter was killed while performing military service. This effort involved Goldie Murphy, Chapter President of the Gold Star Mothers; AUSA; the Arizona National Guard and George Lutz, organizer of the Honor and Remember Flag campaign across America. George has an "Honor and Remember" logo emblazoned on the bus that he is taking to each of the lower 48 states (Alaska and Hawaii by air) to garner legislative support for official adoption of the Honor and Remember Flag (with a status similar to the POW/MIA flag). On 20 September the bus stopped in Phoenix. The event took place in the Russell Auditorium at the Papago Military Installation. Prior to the start of the event, Chapter members assembled and displayed 65 banners (complete with photo and personal information), commemorating a fallen Arizona service member. The banners were displayed inside the building foyer prior to entering the Russell Auditorium.

Mr. Victor Daniels, the Governor's Chief of Staff read the Governor's proclamation calling for Congressional adoption of the Honor and Remember Flag. Following the proclamation, Mr. Lutz spoke, explaining how he was motivated to undertake this project after his son was killed in Iraq in 2005. He said he thought he could honor his son and all of our fallen comrades by obtaining adoption of the flag which would institutionalize commemoration of all fallen service members from all wars. COL (P) Matthew Brown, the Deputy Arizona State Adjutant General then presented each of the six Gold Star Mothers in attendance with an Honor and Remember Flag with their son/daughter's name embroidered on it.



855th MP Company Homecoming

"On 18 September, the 855th MP Company was welcomed home after a year-long deployment in Afghanistan. The event took place in the Air National Guard hanger at Sky Harbor Airport. Hundreds of family members and friends were assembled on bleachers inside the hanger on either side of the closed doors. The AZ Territorial Chapter and VFW Post 9400 were the two welcoming organizations. Our Chapter provided a ten foot banner made by Speedpro Imaging of Scottsdale with the words "Welcome Home, Job Well Done" inscribed along with the unit crest. Five Chapter members set up the AUSA table with membership information, promotional items, snacks and water

855th MP Company Homecoming – Continued

A complimentary AUSA membership was also given to a returning soldier. The **reception** for the soldiers was spectacular! Leading the company into the hangar was the 30 piece Mesa Caledonian Pipe (bagpipes) and Drum Corps. Behind the formation were the dismounted Patriot (motorcycle) Riders carrying American flags. The procession marched in to the bagpipe music of "Scotland the Brave". It was a spectacle! Following the event, COL Brown came over to the AUSA table and thanked us for our sustained support of the AZ National Guard."



Upcoming Events

JROTC and Armed Forces Career Officer Day (AFCOD) Luncheon

On Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 7505 E McCormick Parkway, Scottsdale AUSA's will hold its annual JROTC and Armed Forces Career Officer Day (AFCOD) luncheon. The Chapter sponsors this event and hosts more than 200 JROTC cadets from the Phoenix metropolitan area and other high schools in the state. The purpose of the event is to expose the cadets to various options for serving their country. Representatives from the services academies, the ROTC programs from Arizona Universities, military recruiters and several military academies from out-of-state programs, set up displays and provide information to the cadets. Additional information about this event is available on our web site. Cost is \$30 for one person. Costs and forms for sponsoring a table or half of a table (the cadets are not charged for their meal) are on the web site. You can pay by credit card/Pay Pal on line at our web page. <http://www3.ausa.org/chapweb/atc/events.html>

AUSA Awards Luncheon

Sunday, February 13, 2011 is the annual AUSA Awards Luncheon at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. We are honored this year to have the President of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), General Gordon R. Sullivan, as our guest speaker. He received his commission from Norwich University in 1959. General Sullivan was the 32nd Chief of Staff of the US Army. He retired from the US Army in 1995 after a 36-year career. He has been the President and CEO of AUSA since 1998. Information about this event will be posted on our web site in November-December. Our chapter presents awards to outstanding soldiers and cadets from various universities and commands, We also present the "Task Force Smith Saber" to the ROTC cadet with the best score in Advanced Camp. Join us for lunch.

AUSA Annual Golf Tournament at Luke Air Force Base, April 15, 2011. The golf tournament is our chapter's major fund raising event. The 11th Annual "Task Force Smith" ROTC golf tournament will once again be at Falcon Dunes Golf Course at Luke Air Force Base. Additional details will be published in the next newsletter.

Two new Web Sites are up. Both the AUSA national web site: <http://www.ausa.org/Pages/default.aspx> and the Arizona Territorial Chapter web site: <http://www3.ausa.org/chapweb/atc/events.html> have been redone. Please check them out. Stay in touch about upcoming events, benefits and much more.

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