



Notes from Rance

I want to bring you up to date on what our Chapter has been doing, and what we hope to accomplish in the future with your continued help. Bottom line is our Chapter is doing great, growing in membership and more importantly in support to the soldiers, cadets and their families. Our donations have grown over the past years from \$1,200 in 2005, \$3,100 in 2008 and now over \$12,300 in 2010! The money we generate supports the soldiers, their families, ROTC/JROTC and Vet's. This year's numbers are shown below:

Awards/donations to Soldiers and Cadets - \$4,270 Support to ROTC/JROTC - \$2,500
Military Family Support - \$2,550 Support to Veterans - \$ 1,000
Support to AZ deployed Reserve and National Guard units - \$2,000

We have been able to sustain this growth by our increased membership and corporate support, as well as our annual golf tournament fund raiser, which was the best ever. In terms of support to the soldiers, in addition to the very successful February Awards luncheon, we are supporting deployed and returning soldiers on a regular basis. All these activities were recognized at the February 7th Region Conference in Barstow, CA, where we were designated as the only Star Chapter in the Region. Thanks to you all for your support and if you want to get more involved, please let me know – we sure can use your help!

Upcoming events

Support to Reserve and National Guard Units

We remain very actively engaged in supporting Reserve and National Guard units as they deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, and really need your contribution to this effort. In this month alone we will support the 1/415 Regiment Welcome Home Warrior function on 16 May and the 1404th Transportation Company Yellow Ribbon Ceremony on the weekend of 22- 23 May.

Taser has agreed to "Adopt" the 855th MP Company in Iraq and contributed \$500 to their Family Readiness Group. This is our own MAJ Joe Murdock's unit and he has shared a great news story on the [855th in IRAQ](#) and some photos of their PTT mission. They will be moving to MOSUL soon and stay there for the remainder of the tour. We are very proud of this unit and our relationship with it. We are working on matching up other units and sponsors. If you want to participate in this wonderful activity please let COL (R) Jeanne Blaes or me know (see contacts below).



Task Force Smith Golf Tournament

This past year's event on 2 April at Luke AFB Falcon Dunes GC was by all accounts the biggest and best ever. We certainly had the most players, raised the most money, and had the most smiles. Next year's tournament is already scheduled for 15 April at the same course. We expect to fill this one up too, so mark your calendars and if you have any donation items for the raffle please let me know.

Other items of General Interest

Jerry Sands represents us at the monthly meeting of Unified Arizona Vets as well as other Veteran-related meetings, and shared the following points:

Recent changes to the list of "Agent Orange" caused diseases included the addition of Parkinson's disease to the list of "presumptive" causation.

The Madison Street Veterans Association opened their shelter on 1 May for 49 previously homeless veterans. The shelter is on the top floor of the YWCA at 755 E. Willetta St. (Our Chapter supports this organization.)

The second annual Arizona Military Women's Conference is scheduled for the afternoon of May 21 and all day on May 22 at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Dunlap Ave and I-17. For additional information contact Linda Fulkerson at fulkers6@q.com

The hospitality suite at Sky Harbor Airport, currently operated by the City of Phoenix, will come under the control and management of the USO on 1 July 2010. Plans call for a move to terminal 3, expansion, and later the addition of another suite in terminal 4. (Our Chapter supports this organization.)

"Massing of the Colors" at the Veterans' National Cemetery on Cave Creek Road in North Phoenix will be conducted at 8:00 AM on 31 May 2010. About 3000 people are expected at this event, please come early. On Tuesday 1 June, volunteers are needed to pick up flags and flowers from the gravesites at the cemetery.

WORD, WOMen's Resource Directory for Veterans is the development of a on-line interactive resource directory for women veterans. It is being done under the direction of the WACVA Chapter 68. The sponsor is St. Luke's Health Initiative, under the auspices of its Technical Assistance Partnership (TAP) program. If interested, the contact is Shirley Vega, 480-785-2683.

June 25th is the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War. There will be a ceremony at Wesley Bolin Plaza at 10:00 AM.

Army Birthday/Flag Day Luncheon

We have a very interesting event scheduled for 13 June as described in the attached flyer. In addition to celebrating our Army heritage, we will hear from Rick Smith, CEO and founder of TASER, one of our great corporate sponsors. I know you will find his presentation fascinating. This is also a great opportunity for our other corporate members to meet and network, and we really encourage all to attend. Finally Mike Perry from the Army Heritage Center Foundation in Carlisle will be in town and will say a few words about his Center. He is in town receive some of the late LTG Sackton's historical items from COL A. Park Shaw.

Chapter Officers and monthly meeting

Although we get new blood regularly we still need help, especially with the position of Secretary and on some of our functions. Please let any Board/EXCOM member know if you are interested. We normally meet on the 1st Monday of month at 1400 hours at Pettygrew Armory at 5425 E. McDowell. In order to facilitate a better understanding between our corporate sponsors and the Chapter's activities, we've held the monthly meeting at the facilities of some of our corporate members. Please let me know if your company is interested in doing so in hosting one of our meetings.

Letter to the Editor of the Newsletter Chapter 7202

It is a special pleasure and a great honor to address our membership through this letter. Over the many years I have been involved with this Chapter, I have seen many leaders come and go. It is hard to say which one was best because all have exhibited special leadership which has enhanced the history of our Chapter. Through the long history of Region VII which includes the five western States, an award has been given to the outstanding Chapter Presidents. It is called The Soaring Eagle and is represented by a large bronze eagle on a wooden base. It is the highest award given out by the Region President. Although it is given to one person - the Chapter President - it takes a great team to make the President good enough to receive the award. However, the old saying is "the speed of the boss is the speed of the gang". He is the motivator!!! President Vic Conner won this award last year along with COL Jim Morris, and other Chapter members have been recognized in the past, including LTG Frank Sackton and myself.

I am very pleased to inform you that at this year's 7th Region Conference at Fort Irwin California, our Chapter President Colonel Rance Farrell was the recipient of the Soaring Eagle for 2009-2010. Our Chapter was also recognized as the # 1 Chapter in Region VII!

A BIG "WELL DONE" FOR RANCE AND EVERYONE ON THE CHAPTER EXCOM & BOARD WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE!!!!

COL A. Park Shaw, Past AZ State and Chapter 7202 President

Web site

We are continuing to make a great deal more use of our [Chapter Web Site](#), now being maintained by Mary Vetrano. Note that you can now track our upcoming events and even pay for them or make contributions there via Pay Pal, using your credit card. As we mentioned before, all our activities come at a price, both financially and man-power wise. Your contributions will help with the former. But we also ask that you all be recruiters: tell your friends and business acquaintances about the great things our chapter is doing for the soldiers and their families and get them to sign up as new members or corporate sponsors. And bring them to the meetings - we really need the new blood!

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