THE ARIZONA CHAPTER
P.O. Box 7644
Cave Creek, AZ 85327
Arizona's First Chapter

The Sentinel

PAGE 1 CHARTERED IN 1958 - OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY APRIL 2001

SUPPORT
OUR TROOPS

REMEMBER
OUR
FALLEN
COMRADES

FLY
YOUR
FLAG

HAPPY EASTER GREETINGS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is here! The Desert is in full bloom and so is this Chapter! This edition of The Sentinel is filled with information about our Chapter activities, where we've been and where we are heading. Our recent meeting was strictly business. Not always the most entertaining of our events, but all in all extremely productive. It was also quite apparent that at least one raucous table appeared to be having a heckuava of a good time, and I'm glad I am married to one of the ladies sitting there.

Your Board of Directors and Chairmen presented the status of various programs and initiatives. Ron Green is a stickler for details (has something to do with $) and works very hard in his dual role of 1st VP and Membership Chairman. He was followed by Bill Johnson, our Treasurer, who essentially said we remain solvent. I suppose it was logical to immediately follow them with our JROTC and Scholarship Chairman, Raymond Deane, who presented a detailed, and extremely ambitious program for 2001. I guess if Ron and Bill can find the money, Ray can give it away!

I'm kidding of course, and we are honored to be able to support JROTC Recognition and Scholarship Programs at 14 area High Schools (an increase of 12 from recent years). I wanted to thank each and everyone of our members who have voted for and supported this program. You have allowed it to reach new levels of commitment. More importantly, I want to thank the volunteers who will be presenting both awards and scholarships to the honored recipients. We can't have a program like this without Chapter members who are willing to stand up and be counted! Lastly, I think Raymond deserves a hefty handshake too.

We have added a State of Arizona Flag, and a POW/MIA Flag to our Color Guard. Four new bases and four staffs were also purchased. Expenses were partially offset by membership donations. We fully intend to participate in the Memorial Day Ceremonies. We should form an Honor Guard. The historical significance of an Honor Guard is duty and valor. It is our privilege to Honor our Nation, and we can do so by participating in the Parade of Honor Guards each Memorial Day.

We also determined the importance of our **TAPS** program. It was decided by majority vote to make a Memorial Presentation, in the form of a Donation, to the Arizona Veterans Home when one of our Members passes on. The Board of Directors will now be charged with the responsibility of developing an appropriate Standing Operating Procedure for the Chapter, which I think they will have ready before June.

All Board Members present had a report. Paul Alix is still developing a few ideas to keep us in the Black (or is it Green) and has a growing project on his hands. Likewise, Frank Birtciel requested input for the Sentinel, and would appreciate an assistant editor. Ron Drew took a few moments to talk about his role as our Web Master. He mentioned that you can always find Chapter information at our site, or look up our calendar of events. I personally capped off the Business Meeting with a solo performance of McNamara's Band, which had absolutely nothing to do with

Arizona Chapter Calendar
April 12
Board Meeting

April 15
Easter

April 16
Battle of Pork Chop Hill 1953

April 19
TROA Dinner

April 22
Secretaries' Day

April 27
Arbor Day

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business, but it was Saint Patrick's Day. That performance ensured that the motion to adjourn was unanimous. In the weeks ahead we will be the Host Chapter for a visit from Col. John Dwan. John will represent TROA and provide an update regarding recent events, including **Tri-Care For Life**. All TROA members in "our" area who are not members of Arizona Chapter have received notification of Col Dwan's visit and an invitation to join us on the 19th of April. We'll keep a stack of Membership Applications handy to ensure that they really "join" us. If they all joined, we'd have to conduct our meeting in the Bank One Ballpark! If only one percent decide to come to the Dinner, Ron and I will be sitting in the Hallway - AGAIN!

The month of May is going to be incredibly busy. The Calendar is jam packed. Our regular meeting will be our Luncheon (Ramada Rosie promises to be terrific) at McCormick Ranch. Watch for the **3rd Annual Golf Tournament** too, it promises to be another great time for the participants. Each year it gets a wee bit larger, so get your reservations in soon. We will attend the **Memorial Day** Presentations, and I believe a substantial number of us intend to be present at the luncheon commemorating the **Dedication of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame**. Col. (ret) Webb Ellis is both a key coordinator of that dedication, and may also be our newest Chapter Member. Throughout the entire month of May, our members will also be participating in numerous JROTC High School Ceremonies.

All in all, it's obvious that the Arizona Chapter is active. But it's important to note, sadly, that the West Valley Chapter recently determined that they would fold their Flag and return their Charter TROA. Our Council of Chapters will do all they can, but quite simply - West Valley Chapter was unable to fill the chairs required to keep going. I make this point quietly but firmly, because that is not the case with Arizona Chapter. When we get together, look to your right and left, see who has stood up to be counted. Not only today, but yesterday too. They are the ones who made this Chapter strong, and you are the ones who keep it alive, give it direction and guidance. You are the motivation.

You are my motivation. Thank you.
Chuck Schluter
President, AZ #1

MEMBERSHIP

A 2001 roster, that was current as of March 30, is included as an insert with this Sentinel. It is a good thing that I decided to call each member that we had as not renewing (that didn't have an unlisted number) as I found that there are 2 lost checks and several in the mail. I will have to check with our Pony express to see if they can run the lost checks down. As of the effective date of the roster we have 116 members that are broken out as 86 Retired Officers and 30 Auxiliary. We also have 4 winter guests with us. Of the 116, 11 have become members this year and 2 more are expected shortly. It was planned just to publish changes to the 2000 roster, but there were so many that it was decided to publish a complete 2001 roster. If things work out, 2002 will be an update.
Ron Green / 1st VP

How do you catch a unique rabbit? Unique up on it!

COMMUNICATIONS TREE

A Communications Tree has been started for the Chapter that will include both the internet and the phone. To initiate notification of a short fused and important issue, our Legislative Representative or our President will send a message out on the net. Net members will then call the members assigned to them. I am currently canvassing net members for participants. Then by using a map and ZIP Codes, I will try to assign phone numbers of members that live close to them. Close proximity of members will help in case of some important issue when some copies may want to be hand delivered. It is hoped to have this list out by May.
Ron Green / 1st VP

What kind of coffee was served on the Titanic? Sanka!!

APRIL DINNER MEETING

When	1800 April 19, 2001
Where	Best Western Executive Park Hotel 1100 North Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona
Cost	$17.00 per person
Program	Col. John F. Dwan, USMCR-Ret. National Board Director from TROA Recruiting Evening. USAA invited.
Menu	Chicken Florentine Garden Salad Rice Pilaf French Vegetable Medley Hot Rolls Amaretto Mousse Coffee Ice Tea

RSVP Date: April 15, 2001

Please make your reservations early, Ron Green says 12 visitors have already called in wanting to attend. Make your check to AZ Chapter TROA and send to Bill Johnson, 13410 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.
Phone, (602) 942-4549
Jim Seidl Programs

Col. John F. Dwan, USMC-Ret
Salt Lake City, Utah

Commissioned in 1959, Colonel Dwan served in active duty billets from Platoon Leader to Company Executive Officer. As a reservist in 1962-89, he saw duty as Logistics Officer, Company Commander, and Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Mobilization Station Salt Lake City. Since retirement in 1989, he has served on the boards of the University of Utah Association; the Voluntary Service Corps, Shriners Crippled children's Hospital; and the American Society for Health Care Marketing and Public Relations. TROA Committee: Educational Assistance.
Chuck Schluter

How do you catch a tame rabbit? Tame way, unique up on it!

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We're down to the wire and ahead of the game. By the time this issue arrives in your mailbox, we will know the recipients of our TROA Recognition Medal. Just as importantly, we have a "Presenter" to make the awards to each of the honorees. So, before going on, let me extend a great big THANK YOU to the "Presenters" , Joe Falkner, John Fels, Bill Adams, Michael Gannon, Harry Farenga, Bernie Conway, Bill Johnson, Irene Doto, Ron Green, Jack Cook, Frank Birtciel, Bill Sweeney and Chuck Schluter. Awards night is a big night for the Cadets and it's great that we can participate. Who knows, one of more of these fine young people could wind up as the Chief of Staff of one of the Services, and we sure want to be on their good side when they get there.

Scholarships are coming along nicely too. It doesn't look like we will have 28 applicants, but there will be enough to keep the selection committee busy for a few hours. I will name the committee in the next Sentinel and express the scholarship committee's appreciation then.

One last thing. There is a way you can help the JROTC Program and yourselves at the same time. The State of Arizona allows us to give up to $200 per family per year to a school's Extra Curricular Activity Programs, i.e., JROTC. You in turn receive a dollar for dollar tax credit when filing your state income tax return. The money is used for field training exercise insurance, tents, and equipment to support various excursions, and to pay for the cost of transportation to an extra curricular activity. To make sure the money gets into the right hands, it needs to be directed to a JROTC Unit for their specific use. If you call me, I will be more than happy to provide you with names and addresses.

Raymond Deane
Scholarship Committee

GOLF

Bernie Conway has set up the 3rd Annual TROA Golf Tournament at the Rolling Hills Golf Course on May 5, 2001 at 0900 hours. The course is located at 1415 N. Mill Ave, Tempe, AZ, that is just next door south of the Phoenix Zoo. The entry fee is $30.00 per person and includes your cart and prize money. Your reservation slip is attached to this Sentinel and Bernie wants your reservation in NLT May 1, 2001. Bernie says: The first 24 with the money play. With the additional golfers the Chapter has gained, this should be the best one yet!

The Editor

Police station toilet stolen, cops have nothing to go on!
Ham and eggs - a days work for a chicken; a lifetime commitment for a pig!

TOPS

Our Chapter is a strong and viable advocate of the TROA TOPS Program. Our members should recognize that our strength lies within our networking capability, plus the tenacity and realistic expectations of those seeking positions. Also, by now everyone is well aware of the arrival of USAA, and the inherent employment opportunities.

USAA has now begun the hiring cycle, and in June, Mr. Leon Barnes from the USAA HR Department is our scheduled speaker. Mr. Barnes will be able to provide short term and long range employment expectations, and information regarding the USAA facility currently under construction near I-17 and Happy Valley road. Although we anticipated that USAA would initially seek entry level positions, Mr. Barnes recently mentioned that USAA is also considering applications for: Call Center Managers, Property and Casualty Underwriters, Inside Sales Representatives, Policy Service Representatives, and Investment Sales Representative.

A recent Fortune Magazine listed USAA (#74) as one of the top 100 Employers in the US. They share the values and ethics commensurate with military membership and place great value on having well trained professional employees. Our TOPS Team is standing by to hand carry resumes to USAA for our members and families. We can't guarantee employment, but we can guarantee the resume will be delivered! The rest is up to the individual.

And in closing, and on the behalf of all of our members, I'd like to publicly recognize Mr. Rich Gallup, TROA and USAA Account Representative, who brought two fine groups together. Thank you Rich!
Respectfully submitted,
Bernie Conway Chapter TOPS Chairman

FLAG
A/147.50

FIRST COMBAT MISSION

Lt Col Ron Green USAF Ret.

I joined the 416th TFS on Easter Sunday, 1963 at Misawa AB, Japan. Although this was to be a 3 year tour, in June 1964, I found myself in the last flight of F-100As leaving Misawa as we were being transferred to England AFB as a part of Project Clear Water (Muddy Water as we affectionately called it). I was named the Squadron Mobility Officer, but was told not to worry about it as it would be at least six months before we could be sent anywhere. True to form, in two months we were given two weeks to be on the way to Vietnam.

IN exactly two weeks, after painting many of the boxes myself, we marshaled the last box for the deployment. At this moment, we received a call that said we were not going after all. Although we were disappointed, (especially me) all our work was not for naught as we found ourselves in Clark AB the next March. We were TDY to Clark, but were on call for deployment to Danang AB, Vietnam, as a Response Force when we were called upon.

We didn't have long to wait as the first afternoon we were told to deploy a flight to Vietnam for missions North. I begged the Ops Officer to let me go and was told that as soon as I unloaded the last C-130 the next morning and loaded it with equipment required for TDY support, I could get on board and accompany it. We met the C-130 the next morning and by one of the pilots driving the fork lift, I was soon on the way to Danang. I quickly did my mobility duties, that were necessary, and then accomplished my in-theater briefing so that I was ready to fly.

I was even able to sweet talk my way on to a mission the next morning. After my briefing, I decided it was time to take my one B-3 bag and check into Billeting for my tent bed. I figured that I would unpack my clothes and then bring my flying gear back. I was standing in front of the Quonset waiting for a ride when three pilots ran out, one was from the 416th. He hollered at me that I was #4 of a RESCAP for a F-105 pilot that had just been shot down (this turned out to be Robby Risner). We were to provide support for a HU-16 chopper that was on the way to pick him up. The information was hollered to me as the pilots ran past me.

I tore my flying gear from my B-3, threw the bag back inside the Quonset, and started to follow in the direction that the pilots had disappeared in. I was putting my flying gear on as I ran and saw several Crew Chiefs standing in front of an airplane in a revetment waving me on , so I went there. The other 3 airplanes were just starting to taxi so I told the Crew Chiefs to pull whatever pins they could and button me up for taxi. No preflight was made in this case as I didn't have time. The radio came on-line and I heard the flight going to tower–this verified the flight call sign as I hadn't gotten this. I taxied on the Chief's signal and strapped in as I taxied. As I pulled into the arming area, 3 was just lighting his burner. I quickly armed, got clearance for takeoff, and saw the flight already into their turn out of traffic. I plugged in the burner when about 30 degrees from runway alignment. When airborne, I pulled up the gear handle and started my turn. When reaching the proper speed, I pulled up the flaps and aimed at the flight for join-up (I was in trail of course) and continued to accelerate. I then checked my speed and to my surprise, saw that I was going through 500 knots. As we had a 395 knot speed limit with 335s and fuel, I brought it out of burner and called the flight. They immediately came out of burner and I was able to join up when we were about 40 miles north of Danang.

We continued up the coast and leveled out around 20,000 feet. ……..
This story will be concluded in the May issue of the Sentinel as we have run out of space. I don't like continued stories, but Easter comes around only once a year and this story started on an Easter Sunday in 1963. We would also like to have more of the adventures of our members.

The Editor

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Scholarships, LtCol Raymond Deane. USAF	623-939-8517

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Lord, teach thy church the lessons of weakness and of danger, to trust thy hidden power; thy grace by ways mysterious, the wrath of man can bind, and in thy boldest foeman thy chosen saint can find. Amen.

Bob Rutherford

The Retired Officers Association
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