



NEWSLETTER

January - February- March 2008

CIV/MILITARY HOSTS ARIZONA LEADERS.

The Edwards AFB Civ/Mil Support Group hosted the Tempe (Arizona) Chamber of Commerce, Military Affairs Committee on Jan 10, 2008, at Club Muroc.

We had an excellent turnout with thirty three Civ/Mil members and twenty four representatives from Edwards hosting the sixty member group from Tempe.

The evening kicked off with welcoming remarks by director John Fergione who organized the event for Civ/Mil. Our President, Aida O'Connor, then took to the podium to offer her remarks and present a Civ/Mil "challenge coin" to TMAC President Mr. John Gorman. Aida's welcoming remarks were followed by Brig. Gen. David Eichhorn, AF-FTC Commander.

Ms Mary Jane Dundas, representing the Tempe group, gave a message of thanks for EAFB for their friendship and hosting the dinner.

Many thanks to Jan Tatangelo, Margarite Lite, Terry Landsiedel and Daniel Landsgaard for serving as our Blue Ribbon committee at the door and to John Fergione for organizing the event..

MEMBERSHIP INCREASING

Our membership drive is well underway and we are pleased to see so many new and returning members. Keep in mind that membership in the Civ/Mil group is limited and as a result there is no better time than now to get your friends or associates involved in Civ/Mil before we fill our roster.

For information on membership,
contact Mike Belzil at 572-5509.

Farewell Col. Gallagher

Air Force Col. Bryan Gallagher, commander of the 95th Air Base Wing, passed away on February 5th, after losing consciousness outside the base gym.

Col. Gallagher, 46, was a civil engineering officer who received his commission in 1987 after spending time as an enlisted technical sergeant in the Medical Service Corps. As the 95th ABW Commander he was for operating the base, including the infrastruc-



Col Bryan Gallagher

ture, communication systems, security, fire protection, transportation, supply, finance, contracting, legal services, personnel and manpower support, housing, education, chapel and quality-of-life programs at Edwards AFB. Col. Gallagher was the lead officer on the Higher Grounds Internet Caf  which was opened in the fall of 2007 and made possible through generous donations from the Civ/Mill group and members of the Antelope Valley communities.

Bryan was a strong proponent of the EAFB Civ/Mil Support Group and a dear friend who will be greatly missed. In his absence, 95th ABW Vice Commander, Col. Nancy Wharton is serving as acting commander.

EAFB HONORAY COMMANDERS PROGRAM PAYS OFF

At our annual installation banquet, held October 11, 2007, community leaders and EAFB commanders paired up for the next year under the EAFB Honorary Commanders program. This program, initiated in 2005 by General Bedke, pairs Center, Wing, Group and selected squadron Commanders with members of our community leadership and Civ/Mil group for a 1-year "tour of duty", the purpose of which is to foster a closer relationship between our civilian and military communities.

As I was chosen as an honorary commander, it was my pleasure to be invited to the 95th Communication Group's Holiday party during December by Col John M Odey,

commander. The function of the 95th CG on Edwards is to provide 24/7 communication support for the 14,000 members of Edwards AFB.

It was to my surprise that over 300 military families and civilian workers attended. After being introduced as the honorary commander, I proceeded in telling the group of our mission and purpose. Many did not know of our group and were delighted and interested in our organization, asking many questions.

The Civ/Mil Support Group made many new friends through this visit and I'm sure we'll hear more from them in the future. George N. Fox

EAFB Civilian-Military Support Group Accomplishments

The EAFB Civ-Mil was founded in 1988/1989

It is important that the EAFB Civ-Mil Support Group document its accomplishments over the years for a number of reasons. When potential new members ask the question "What has the group done in the past?", the answer is easily given if the documentation is readily available. When I first published this list (in a very rough format) looking for dates, many of our own current members mailed me back with the comment "WOW! I didn't realize we had done this much." Finally, it gives everyone assigned to EAFB a better appreciation for what the group has done and helps to solicit ideas from the EAFB senior staff as to those projects in the future that would be beneficial to the Base. Thus, below is the most current listing of our accomplishments. If any of you can provide information that would make this list even more accurate, your inputs would be even more appreciated.

1. Funded the Flag Park (Across from Building 1). Provided flags and poles. (July, 1991). Replaced all flags several times.
2. Picnic Tables and Benches. Several projects all over the Base (1995 – 2006), to include: Concrete picnic tables and benches at the Flag Park. Picnic tables for the AFRL (2001). Benches for the Yeager Sound Barrier Park (Dedication: August, 2006)
3. Civ-Mil Wall (Annual replacement of displays) (September, 1998. Accomplished a major renovation in 2004).

4. Annual Holiday Gifts for Children – Adopt a Family. (Annual since 2000)
5. Operation Warm Heart - Food for Families. (Holidays since 2002)
6. Employee of the Year program. (Annual, began in 2002)
7. Provided over 1,000 goodie bags for deploying troops. (Ongoing, began in 2002)
8. Operation Shoe Fly Joint Air Force and Marine assistance. Provided 7,000 pairs of shoes to Afghanistan. (Summer, 2004)
9. Operation Higher Grounds - Internet Café. (Ground Breaking: July, 2007, Dedication: August, 2007).
10. Air Show sponsor (Annual).
11. Financed Buses for Airmen to participate in the Armed Services Day Parade.
12. Purchased the large US Flag used for Building 1600 events.
13. Sponsored welcoming receptions for the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, AFMC Commander and numerous other Distinguished Visitors.

GROUP SEEKING NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Have you ever asked yourself "how can I help serve our heroes in uniform through the Civ/Mil group?" Well, if you have then here is the answer! Our committee chairpersons are always looking for willing individuals to assist in making this organization the success that it is. If you are willing to donate even a small portion of your time and/or talents, give us a call, we would love to have you.

The following are the current committees and their contact person if you wish to get involved.

Membership – Mike Belzil, 661- 572-5509

Social Events – John Fergione – 661-917-2871

Honorary Commanders Program –
Mike Belzil, 661-572-5509

Annual Service Project – Aida O’Connor, 661- 942-1153

Holiday Baskets – Terry Scott, 661-256-3507

Wall Display – Bud Reams, 661-948-1027

Barbeque- Andy Shillinglaw, 661-943-8727

Bylaws/Policy & Procedures- Steve Mallicott, 661-826-4655

Blue Ribbon – Open -Want to volunteer to head up the
Blue Ribbon Committee? Call Aida at 661-942-1153

Nominating – Bob Johnstone, 661-723-6103

Installation Banquet-Cathy Hart 661-824-4055
or Danny Bazzell, 661-948-7805

Newsletter – George N. Fox, 661-256-6080

Annual Audit & Budget – Roger Hemme, 661-942-0976

BOARD DIRECTORS

Aida O’Connor : President

James Welling : Vice President

Danny Bazzell : Secretary

Jan Furr : Treasurer

Clyde Baily

Judy Bauer

Mike Belzil

Alis Clausen

John Fergione

George Fox

Cathy Hart

Roger Hemme

Bob Johnstone

Steve Malicott

Chuck Medicus

Rex Moen

Roger Persons

George “Bud”Reams

Terry Scott

Andy Shillinglaw

Bob Slade

MISSION

“The purpose and general nature of this organization is to establish a friendly, benevolent association of civic leaders and military personnel at Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB), to host groups incoming to Edwards Force Base, and to consider service projects to benefit EAFB.”