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Prez Prose

Jason VanOverbeke, President

To all USAFA Grads in the Minnesota area:
 It is hard to believe, but the Christmas Season is almost upon us and we're rapidly approaching the end of the year. At least for me, the year seemed to fly by and it feels like it was only yesterday that we held our Heritage Dinner even though it was actually seven months ago!
 Last month, I had the honor of representing our Chapter at the AOG Chapter and Affinity Group Presidents conference in Dallas, TX. It was a great opportunity to meet with other grads who share our connection and interest in a strong, successful and respected Air Force Academy. There will be a more in-depth summary of the conference in a separate article in the newsletter.
 The conference was also held in conjunction with the Commander's Classic so it was great to see Air Force bring home the Commander in Chief's trophy and not just beat Army!
 As the year comes to a close and I look back over the events and activities we held and look forward to our plans for next year, I am honored to be charged with the responsibility of leading out group.

The Twin Cities Area Chapter is recognized as one of the top performing chapters in the world. It is a testament to all of you and your participation and ideas that allow us to be so successful. However, it is not enough to be a top performer now and rest on our laurels.

We are always looking for opportunities to improve and welcome any feedback and ideas you may have. You can reach out to us on our new group email address. I'm sure you've seen some of the emails coming out, but reach out to us at USAFA.TCA.AOG@gmail.com with questions, comments or just to say "Hi." Remember to keep an eye on our website (<http://tcausaafaog.org/>) and the events page to get an idea of what is planned in the near-term.

Finally, as a reminder, our open membership meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Bloomington VFW at 1730. All meetings are open to grads so feel free to stop by and give us some feedback on how we're doing or just get an inside view in how the sausage gets made within our organization.

As always, we're looking for ways to serve you better. If you have ideas, activities or networking ideas, feel free to share.

Thanks for all you do and for the opportunity to serve you!

AOG Chapter Presidents' Conference



The Air Force Academy Association of Graduates Chapter and Affinity Group Presidents' conference was held on Thursday, 3 Nov 2022 in Dallas, TX. There were about 20 chapters present representing a variety of geographic and affinity chapters. (For those of you who aren't familiar, affinity groups are AOG chapters based a shared experience such as a club sport or other group rather than where you live.)

The conference covered a wide variety of topics and items of interest for members of the AOG. Gen Mike Gould, CEO of the AOG and Foundation gave a brief presentation on the status of the AOG, current Academy DEI initiatives and their responses to public comments, and some of the results of the AOG survey completed last spring.

Next, Naviere Walkewicz, SVP Alumni Relations provided an update on the AOG Membership For All process. Currently 59% of grads (34k/51k) have opted into membership for all or were already AOG members.

Next, Naviere addressed the results of the AOG membership survey. The survey found that graduates can be roughly broken into 6 categories spanning grads who are extremely proud of the Academy and engaged with AOG activities to those who are disengaged for a variety of reasons to those who feel at odds with the Academy and the AOG.

The challenge going forward for the AOG is to reach out to all grad groups, but tailor the message to resonate with people with various views of the AOG and throughout different phases of their lives.

After Naviere, Karina Ross, Senior Director Alumni Engagement, provided insight into the AOG's upcoming initiatives to engage graduates. First, the AOG will be developing a new portal which is intended to be a one-stop-shop for Grads to more easily and seamlessly engage with the AOG and other grads. It is expected to roll out in early 2023. The AOG is also going to work to better highlight grad activities and accomplishments through a volunteer month (April) an entrepreneur (Nov) month.

Finally, when registering for the conference all of the presidents were requested to identify some of their biggest challenges for their chapters. The AOG identified common threads. At the conference, there was a breakout session to brainstorm among the chapter presidents on ways to overcome those challenges. There were a lot of good ideas that came up regarding the AOG and local chapters finding ways to reach out to people in different phases of their lives. Graduates from 1962, 1992, and 2022 have different needs and the AOG needs to provide value to all of them.

Based on the discussions and information shared, one of the takeaways for me was that the TCA-AOG is actually doing pretty well. A lot of us get down on the number of activities we have or the number of attendees we get. However, some of the ideas the TCA-AOG has implemented (partnering with the Parents Club, a silent auction at the Heritage Dinner, helping offset costs for young grads or everyone) were pretty novel ideas to the other chapters. We have you to thank for that.

The Chapter Presidents' Conference for 2023 is targeted for what will be called "The Long Blue Line Weekend." It will be in July or August to coincide with the march back from Jack's Valley and is intended to avoid conflict with the Parent's Club conference on Parents' Weekend. All in all, the conference provided a lot of good information and it was a great opportunity to learn about the AOG and the Air Force Academy and to network with other Chapter Presidents through the Grad community.

Jason VanOverbeke, President



USAFA MN Parents Club

In February, the USAFA Parents Club of Minnesota will be holding Operation Frozen North, which resumes the tradition to travel to Colorado and treat our cadets to a Minnesota themed meal. In the past, these State Nights have been one of the highlights of the year for our cadets. Unfortunately, these state nights have been stopped by USAFA in favor of a parent led, Taste of Home held in March, which represents all states across the region. Knowing how much our cadets loved the MN themed state night, we brainstormed and found a way to make it happen off base, but still within the USAFA's guidelines.

Additionally this year, we will also be adding two more events full of food and fun so the cadets have every option to get off campus, enjoy food they like, meet other cadets from Minnesota and receive some love and appreciation from back home. We are asking for your help in raising \$15,000 in donations of cash to help Operation Frozen North be successful. Additionally, In Kind items are gratefully accepted and will be used as goody bags and prizes.

Events include:

- Thursday, February 9th: **A Minnesota Dinner**, with goody bags and door prizes, hosted again by Dave Ryan, from KDWB
- Friday, February 10th: **Dinner and Dodgeball**, with prizes for 1st, 2nd and Consolation Champions
- Saturday, February 11th: **An Open House and Game Night**, with Pizza Hut and Chik Fil A for dinner

If you would like to donate or see what the Parents Club is doing for our MN cadets, you can contact them through their website.

<https://www.mnpc.afaparents.org/>

The First Air Force – Army Game

Please forgive me for choosing the wrong summary about this game that I wrote about in the last issue of our newsletter. That one was written by my Classmate, Rich Mayo, and was written basically for the Class of '61 and those Cadets in the first few classes who remembered those individual participants by name.

The following article was written by the Historian of the Class of '61, Hector Negroni, and was included in our class history. It is more general in content, and will be a better explanation of the travel by the Cadet Wing and the game itself. Please enjoy the history.

Tom Wilson, '61



Class of 1961 History THE FIRST AIR FORCE-ARMY GAME

By Hector Negroni '61

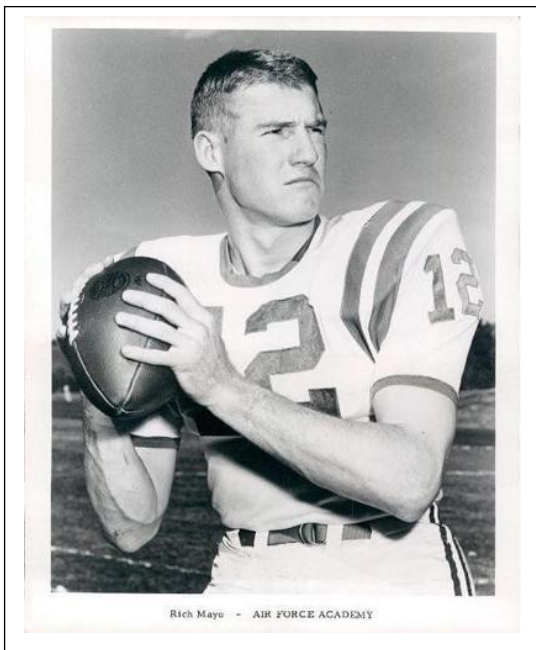
The first Army-Air Force Football Game took place in Yankee Stadium on Saturday, October 31, 1959 and the final score was 13-13. Around 67,000 fans saw the game, including about 400 upper-class cadets who flew to the game in a combination of Air Force planes and commercial charters. I can't remember where we landed but I do remember that the old Bendix Corporation (today part of Honeywell), located in Teterboro, NJ provided the cadets with a superb meal prior to the game and a place to make phone calls to set up after-game "activities."

We drove to the stadium in a long bus convoy. The Air Force Cadet Wing marched into Yankee Stadium and was followed by the Army Cadet Corps. One of the Air Force Cadets managed to sneak into the Army march-on formation wearing an Army uniform.

While the Army cadets were standing at attention, our Air Force cadet broke ranks and ran to the Air Force stands while removing his Army overcoat and displaying an Air Force cadet uniform. Naturally, the Air Force fans were delighted and the Army cadets were not pleased. The deserter from the Long Gray Line to the AFCW ranks was George Luck of the class of '60. He had been a Plebe at West Point and had saved his uni's. One of the AF squadrons on the march in somehow left a sheet on the field in Yankee Stadium saying: "Beetle Crushers step here" or something to that effect!

According to the article about the game written by Allison Danzig in the New York Times and featured in the first page of the Sports Section, the West Point cadets were a bit lucky to come off with a draw in this first meeting between the cadets from the Military Academy on the Hudson and the Air Force installation in the Colorado Rockies." The game was a hard-fought struggle in the mud and drizzle. Air Force played better defensively than offensively by forcing Army to fumble four times. Mike Rawlins (Class of 1961 and today a corporate pilot) recovered the first Army fumble in the Army 25-yard line. The Air Force's drive stalled at the Army's 8-yard line and the field goal try was no good.

In the next series, Army fumbled again and Air Force's Neal Rountree (Class of 1961 and today a distinguished attorney) recovered at the Army's 30. Richie Mayo



(Class of 1961-and today a renowned Psychiatrist) passed to Mike Quinlan (Class of 1961 and today an executive for USAA) for 7 yards. In the next play Air Force was penalized but Richie Mayo came back with a pass to Bob Brickey (Class of 1961, an All-American, and today a retired Airline Pilot) for 17 yards. Monte Moorberg (Class of 1961, KIA in Vietnam and awarded the Air Force Cross) carried for 8 yards and scored in the next play. Air Force missed the extra point and the score was AF:6-A:0.

Army came back with a sustained drive and scored on a run by Bob Anderson. The extra point was good and the score was AF 6: 7-A: 7. Army got a second touchdown when they blocked the punt and recovered it at the Air Force 6-yard line. After three tries Army's Bob Anderson scored from a yard out but Army missed the extra point. The score was now AF:6-A:13

In the fourth quarter, Air Force was trailing 13-6 and Army fumbled again. John Baucom (Class of 1962 and today a Historian) recovered for Air Force on the Army 14-yard line. Monte Moorberg carried to the 8-yard line and Mike Quinlan took it to the end run. The extra point was good and the score was now tied at 13.

In the final minutes of the game, Air Force was on the march from its 38-yard line and reached the Army's 14-yard line with a 21-yard pass from Richie Mayo to Mike Quinlan on a fourth down fake field goal attempt. With less than two minutes to play remaining and the stadium in a bedlam, the Falcons could gain only one yard in three tries. Then, with 41 seconds left Air Force lined up for a field goal. I remember Richie Mayo kneeling into the mud for the snap from center and George Pupich-(Class of 1960 and today a retired Airline Pilot) setting himself to attempt a 31 yard field goal. With the huge crowd waiting tensely, George Pupich kicked the ball but the kick was wide and Army was saved.

In 1959 Air Force finished with a 5-4-1 record while Army finished 4-4-1. We have come a long way since then and we have a proud legacy to inspire us. It is also interesting to note that many of our players played both on offense and defense. In 1959 our offensive/defensive line probably averaged 180 lbs. and that included Randy Cubero (Class of 1961 and former USAFA Dean of Faculty) weighing in at 155 lbs!

Editor's notes

If you would like to see a youtube video with some footage from this historic first game, follow the link. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQpM5xa_J6c

In 2015 some members of this team returned to USAFA, and the Colorado Springs Gazette wrote the following article. https://gazette.com/sports/afa-team-that-first-played-army-in-1959-returning-to-falcon-stadium/article_87404b36-2e5e-5fd6-8c9b-be3c9f4612fb.html

Grants For Stem Educators Know an educator teaching STEM?

Educator Grants Available. Rawlings Chapter of Air Force Association is accepting applications to our Educator Grants program. This \$500 award is provided to K-12 STEM teachers to fund a variety of educational activities, projects, and materials with the goal of exciting young students about science. www.mnafa.org

Chapter Events: Past And Future

In an effort to keep the membership informed of events that our Chapter sponsors or co-sponsors, here is a list of the recently held events:

Sep 18: St Croix Fall River Boat Dinner and Cruise. The annual dinner cruise was a success, and was held in conjunction with the MN USAFA Parents Club.

Sep 24: Terry Flowers hosted a fun bourbon tasting to complement the annual scotch tasting.

Dinner Cruise



Veterans Day Dinner



Nov 14: Veterans Day Dinner. Terry Flowers organized a wonderful dinner at Mancini's in St Paul. Mancini's was a very gracious host and everyone enjoyed a great time.

Upcoming Events

22 Dec: Thursday, December 22, at 6:30 p.m. (CT) Armed Forces Bowl: AF vs Baylor. Televised on ESPN.



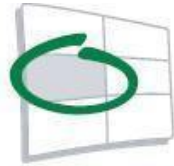
28 Jan 2023: Scotch Tasting at Terry and Margaret Flowers. Our popular annual scotch tasting, look for signup soon on website and facebook.

05 Feb 2023: Annual Lowell Inn Dinner.

We recognize that not everyone will attend all these events, but do plan to schedule some; not only to support our Chapter, but also to enjoy socializing with members that have similar backgrounds and interests. Past experience has proven that those who do attend do enjoy themselves and the camaraderie... If anyone has additional events to recommend, please let any board member know of your thoughts.

Tom Wilson, 61 President Emeritus

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TCA AOG Key Personnel Roster

Twin Cities Area Chapter - USAFA Association of Graduates December 2022

If you need to contact the board please use our new email USAFA.TCA.AOG@gmail.com

Chapter Officers

President	Jason VanOverbeke '03
Vice President	Mike Reiss '67
Secretary	Curt Brown, '78
Treasurer	Rick Knoll '65
Legal Advisor	Charlie Nelson '96
President Emeritus	Tom Wilson '61

Board Members (10) with term expiration included:

Name (spouse)	Term Expiration
Denny Sultany '64	2023
Mike Reiss '67	2023
Jason VanOverbeke '03 (Holli)	2023
Tom Wilson '61	2024
Bob Hockman '89 (Christine)	2024
Pete Swanson '95 (Angela)	2024
Curt Brown, '78 (Mary)	2024
Terry Flower '64 (Margaret)	2025
Rick Knoll '65 (Kathe)	2025
Zach Turcotte '00 (Jessica)	2025

Committee Chairpersons

Advanced Education	Terry Flower '64
ALO Programs	Ed Zarembo '07
Financial and Budget	Rick Knoll '65/Terry Flower '64
Fundraising	Open
Membership	Zach Turcotte '00
Parents' Club Coord	Bob '89 & Christine Hockman