

NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2007 has been a banner year for The Friends. The celebration of our 20th anniversary cumulated in a luncheon that featured an address by Dr. Phillip Meilinger, biographer of Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, the Academy's first Superintendent, and the introduction of a beautiful brochure describing some of The Friends' many contributions to the Air Force Academy Library.

Our support continues for the series of oral history interviews with individuals who have made historically significant contributions to the Academy. Additionally, we are continuing to fund transcriptions of interviews with members of the Eagle Squadrons of World War II.

During this period, The Friends also funded a project to digitally reproduce nearly 500 photographs from the collection of Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle and to place them on The Friends' website so they will be easily accessible for reference and research.

Work also continued this year on an important heritage project devoted to obtaining information on the lives of the 170 Air Force Academy graduates whose names are inscribed on the Academy's Graduate War Memorial Wall. When this effort is completed, the biographical material will be available for research through The Friends' website and in hard-copy in the Library.

Reflecting upon The Friends' accomplishments over the last twenty years, I wish to express my appreciation for our membership's loyal support. You have made it possible for us to enhance the stature and prestige of the Air Force Academy and its fine Library.

THE FRIENDS' 2007 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The Board of Directors of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library held its 20th Anniversary annual meeting on May 15, 2007. Our President, General Clark, opened the proceedings. Secretary Phil Caine then briefly reviewed the activities of The Friends during the past year. He first commented on the continuing key role played by The Friends in promoting Academy heritage through support of the oral history program and a new project, headed by Treasurer Jock Schwank, to gather information about those graduates whose names appear on the War Memorial Wall. Phil also introduced the new 20th Anniversary brochure that will be used to increase the public's understanding of The Friends. He noted as well the upcoming publication of a brochure on the Clark Firearm Collection for use by cadets and visitors as they tour the collection in the Academy Library. Other on-going projects are the transcription of the Eagle Squadron interviews and a biography of Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, the Academy's first Superintendent. The election of officers, reelection of the members of the board whose term expires in 2007, and the reelection of the Executive Committee followed the activity summary. After Treasurer Jock Schwank gave the financial report, the board considered items of new business. These included the unanimous election of Ms. Susan Stone Woodward, daughter of the Academy's third Superintendent, to the Board of Directors; a change to The Friends' policy regarding its relationship with the Director and

staff of the Library; and a summary of proposed new projects. Finally, Dick Rauschkolb of the Association of Graduates discussed that organization's current activities; Col. Neal Barlow, the Vice Dean, talked briefly about key faculty issues; and Dr. Ed Scott, Director of Academy Libraries, summarized some of the challenges facing the Library, particularly the limitations imposed by decreased funding. The meeting then adjourned for the annual luncheon.

This year's luncheon was a special occasion since it commemorated The Friends' 20th Anniversary. We were particularly pleased the Superintendent, Lt. Gen. John F. Regni; Dean of Faculty, Brig. Gen. Dana H. Born; and Commandant of Cadets, Brig. Gen. Susan Y. Desjardins all attended to help celebrate the occasion. Having each of them present at our annual luncheon was a first for The Friends. Before lunch, we enjoyed a slide show summary of The Friends' first twenty years. Our luncheon speaker was Dr. Phil Meilinger who has been commissioned by The Friends to write General Harmon's biography. Dr. Meilinger gave an informative and very entertaining talk that included a number of little known facts about General Harmon's early life. Following the remarks, General Clark presented Dr. Meilinger with a copy of *The Genesis of Flight*. We all look forward to the projected completion of the biography in 2009. The next meeting of the Board of Directors and annual luncheon will be in May 2008. Look for the date and the program in the spring issue of the newsletter.

CLARK FIREARM COLLECTION BROCHURE

In December 1973, Lt. Gen. A.P. Clark, then the Academy Superintendent and now The Friends' President, donated his collection of thirty-one firearms to the Academy Library. Illustrating the evolution of shoulder arms, the collection ranges from several models used during the American Revolution to contemporary weapons. It also includes several types of bayonets and knives used by the combat soldier.

The collection is displayed along the

three-story high, circular stairway in the Library. To make it easier for visitors to appreciate the collection, The Friends has published a brochure picturing and describing the origin, use, and unique history of each item.

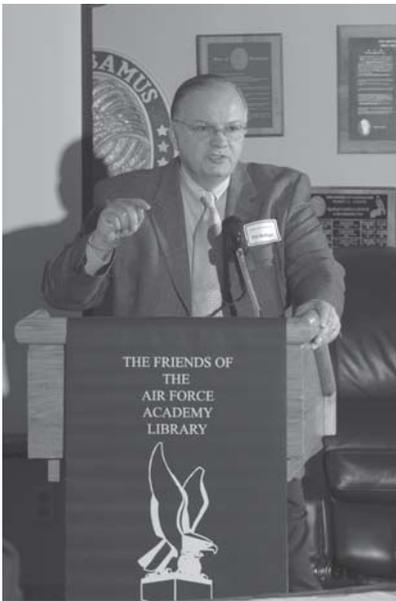
Library visitors may pick up a brochure either at the top or bottom of the stairway.

Those unable to visit the Library may request a copy of the brochure from The Friends.



General Clark giving a tour of the rifle collection, 1978.

GENERAL HARMON BIOGRAPHY UPDATE



Dr. Phil Meilinger talks about General Harmon at The Friends' annual luncheon.

As noted in previous newsletters, in 2006 The Friends commissioned Dr. Phillip Meilinger to write a biography of Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, "The Father of the Academy" and its first Superintendent. In a recent letter to The Friends, Dr. Meilinger reported significant progress on the project and noted how useful the extensive holdings related to General Harmon's life and military career which are housed in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Academy Library have been to his work. His research thus far has covered the first thirty-four years of General

Harmon's military career including his graduation from West Point in 1915, his assignments during the interwar period, and his service in World War II. Dr. Meilinger pointed out that General Harmon had enjoyed a full Army and Air Force career before the Chief of Staff appointed him Special Assistant for Air Academy Matters in 1949. After completing the history of General Harmon's life to 1949, Dr. Meilinger plans to focus on his role in the establishment and initial operation of the Academy. Scheduled for publication in 2009, this important biography will add significantly to our knowledge of the Academy's origins and early years.

SUSAN STONE WOODWARD

Sue was born at West Point, New York while her father, William S. Stone was an Associate Professor of Economics at the United States Military Academy. He later became the third Superintendent of the United States Air Force Academy (1959 – 1962).

Sue graduated from the University of Colorado with a B.A. in English. After teaching at Lakewood High School in Lakewood, Colorado for one year, she moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked for the Honorable Ross Bass (D-Tenn) in the House of Representatives and in the United States Senate. After serving on the Hill for four years, she left to become the Assistant

Congressional Liaison for Douglas Aircraft Company.

In 1979 she returned to Colorado Springs and began her association with El Pomar Foundation the following year. During her twenty-five years of service at the Foundation, Sue served as Executive Director of the Awards for Excellence, a statewide recognition program for non-profit organizations. She also supervised the Foundation's publications as well as its annual report. During her tenure as Director of Penrose House, the education and conference center established in the historic home of El Pomar's founder, Spencer Penrose, Sue was promoted

to Vice President of the Foundation. She retired from El Pomar in the spring of 2005.

Sue is an active member of the Colorado Springs community, serving on the boards of directors of The Colorado Springs Chorale, TESSA (an organization that combats domestic violence), and the Air Force Academy Foundation. She is presently serving as President of the BIS (Broadmoor Information and Security), a private local security organization. We welcome her to the Board of The Friends of the Library.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM UPDATE

The Friends' oral history program continues to document memories and insights of key figures from the Academy's formative years. Interviewees this year, all retired Air Force officers, were Brig. Gen. Christopher Munch, Lt. Col. Charles Emmons, Lt. Col. John Colbrunn, and Lt. Gen. Anthony Burshnick.

General Munch held dual roles of Professor of Law and Staff Judge Advocate at the Academy from 1956 to 1967. As Professor of Law, he was largely responsible for designing the Academy's law curriculum and writing a two-volume law text used by thousands of cadets. As Staff Judge Advocate, he advised the Superintendent and helped the Academy deal with issues such as air navigation rights, criminal jurisdiction, occupation of Academy housing, and construction at the permanent site.

Colonel Emmons was chosen in 1956 to join a highly select group of young officers who acted as surrogate upper classmen (or Air Training Officers) for the earliest classes of cadets. These "ATOs" lived in cadet dormitories, supervised and trained cadets, and counseled them on character development and Air Force careers. Colonel Emmons gave numerous cadets their first flight in an Air Force jet, and commanded the Cadet Wing during the second inauguration of President Dwight Eisenhower.

Colonel Colbrunn was the Academy's first Sports Information Director, and later served in the Academy's Protocol Office as a Special Assistant to the Superintendent. After arriving at the Academy's temporary site at Lowry Air Force Base in September 1954, he created the Office of Sports

Information from scratch. In the beginning he had no staff, publications, established contacts with businesses or news media, or "playbook" for running a college sports information office. As a protocol officer in the 1960s Colonel Colbrunn hosted visits of numerous military and civilian dignitaries.

General Burshnick became Cadet Wing Commander in 1959 as a member of the Academy's second graduating class. After accumulating over 800 combat hours in Vietnam, he returned to the Academy in 1967 to become an Air Officer Commanding. He then returned to flying operations, serving in Military Airlift Command as a Wing Commander and as Vice Commander of 22nd Air Force, before serving as the Academy's Commandant of Cadets, 1982-1984. He completed his career as vice-commander of Military Airlift Command.

VISIT THE FRIENDS AT www.FRIENDS.USAFALIBRARY.COM

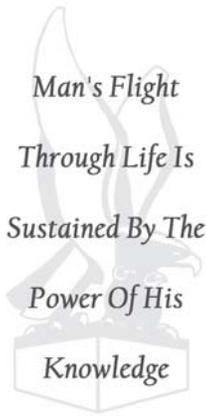
THREE EXCITING ADDITIONS TO THE FRIENDS' WEBSITE

In the fall of 2007 The Friends added three new items to the materials on their web site. We believe our patrons will find them enjoyable and enlightening.

- ***Icarus: The Cadet Journal of the Arts***, featuring selections of cadet art, poetry, prose, and photography. The Friends recently agreed to collaborate with the Academy's Department of English and Fine Arts by hosting *Icarus* on The Friends' web site. After viewing this new addition to our website, Lt. Col. Jim Bishop, a member of the English Department faculty and officer advisor to the *Icarus* staff, stated enthusiastically: "*Icarus*... looks GREAT!"
- ***Doolittle Photographs***, featuring several hundred captioned photographs of Lt. Gen. James H. (Jimmy) Doolittle's life from childhood through the 1970s. They include a few photos of the famous Doolittle Raid of World War II as well as some photographs autographed by personalities associated with his aviation and military career.
- ***Clark Firearm Collection Brochure***, featuring the collection of thirty-one military shoulder arms donated by General Clark to the Air Force Academy and on display in the McDermott Library. The brochure contains photographs and descriptions of these weapons which reflect most of the principal types of shoulder arms issued to United States troops during and since the American Revolution.

To view these and other unique materials go to The Friends' website at

www.friends.usafalibrary.com



UPDATE FROM THE McDERMOTT LIBRARY

The Friends has funded digitizing 500 photographs, selected from 122 albums in the Doolittle collection. Kalynne Holm, contracted to do the scanning, restored and enhanced many of the images and also produced a book version of them for Special Collections. The photographs are posted on The Friends' website and linked to the Library website. Please take a look!

A new book scanner was obtained by the Library as well as an oversize scanner that will soon make Gimbel collection prints, USAFA lectures, and yearbooks available on its website. The address is: www.usafa.af.mil/df/dflib/index.cfm.

The Library is changing from a .mil to an .edu site. Please note, individual email addresses now end in "usafa.edu" rather than the former "usafa.af.mil". Messages sent in error to ".mil" will no longer be forwarded after December.

A lovely 18th century lap desk was donated to the Library by the Contessa Caproni, friend of General Clark, in memory of her husband, Sig. Cont. Gianni Caproni (1886-1957). The desk was originally presented by balloonist John Jeffries to Madame Jean-Pierre Blanchard, another celebrated balloonist. The Gimbel Aeronautical History Collection already contains a number of Jeffries/Blanchard items, including an original engraving of Jeffries' and Jean-Pierre Blanchard's first international balloon flight across the English Channel on January 7, 1785 and their 1786 recollections of that flight. The Library has also received (again through Friends' contacts) an exciting set of Smithsonian aviation prints and a Charles Lindbergh banner from collector Dean Phelps, a member of the class of '60.

Despite increased financial support from The Friends, the past fiscal year has been one of the most difficult for the Library in the last quarter century. The Library ended the year with more than \$150,000 worth of book requests not ordered, and a Special Collections staff unable to process new materials because of supply shortages. Through a last-minute supplement from the Dean, the Library avoided canceling almost half of its journal subscriptions. Price increases for electronic databases and scholarly journals are increasing at four times the rate of the Consumer Price Index. Contrary to popular belief, such materials are not available for free on the Internet.

Security restrictions are still in force for the cadet area: **DoD cardholding visitors** who are not assigned to an agency within the cadet area will be issued a one-day Temporary (T) or Visitor (V) badge and one-day parking pass in exchange for a driver's license at the cadet entry gates near Sijan Hall and the Fieldhouse; DoD cardholders may not escort non-DoD cardholding visitors. **Non-DoD cardholding visitors** must be sponsored into the cadet area by prior phone call to Mary Elizabeth Ruwell at (719) 333-4674 or Ed Scott at (719) 333-2590. They can meet visitors at the North Gate parking lot, the Visitors Center or the Officers Club. Because of security concerns, groups larger than five must make arrangements at least two weeks in advance of their visit.

JACKS DIARY CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Friends has contracted with Eileen Clancy, professional conservator in Denver, to preserve the diary of Robert Jacks, POW in Stalag Luft III during World War II. The diary's covers are made from Borden powdered milk containers that are either all tin or tin-plated steel. Its contents include diary entries, regulations issued by the Germans, tickets, telegrams, wrappings from cigarette packets and chocolate bars, and many other mementoes collected from the camp. Some of the papers have become so fragile with time and handling that they can no longer be touched without becoming damaged.

Ms. Clancy will clean all the papers, mend tears and reattach loose fragments, remove adhesives and replace all of the contents in their original positions using wheat starch paste, interleave contents with tissue, and store loose materials in special folders that correspond to the original diary pages. It is expected that the conservation effort will require 100 or more hours of work.

Although conserving the diary may cost as much as \$10,000, the result will preserve a unique day-to-day record of life in a World War II POW camp for future generations of cadets.

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