



# NEWSLETTER

October - November - December 2007

## NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED AT ANNUAL DINNER

The Edwards AFB Civ-Mil Support Group installed the Class of 2010 Officers in its annual installation dinner Oct. 11 at the Hellenic Center in Lancaster.

Outgoing Officers were Alis Clausen, president; James Welling, vice president; George "Bud" Reams, secretary and Tom Craft, treasurer.

Incoming officers for the 2007-08 year are Aida O'Connor, president; James Welling, vice president; Danny Bazzell, secretary; Jan Fourr, treasurer; and Alis Clausen, past president.

Newly elected directors were Cathy Hart, Robert Johnstone, Roger L. Persons, Terry L. Scott, Andrew Schillinglaw, Robert Slade and James Welling.

The Board of Directors consists of 21 directors with seven being elected each year on a rotating basis. Other elected directors include Clyde Baily, George N. Fox, Steve Malicott, Chuck E. Medicus, Rex Moen, Mike Belzill, Lynn Watkins, Danny Bazzell, Alis Clausen, John Fergione, Jan Four, Roger Hemme, Aida O'Connor and George "Bud" Reams.

The ceremony was emceed by Mike Dispenza and the Presentation of the Colors by the Edwards Blue Eagle Honor Guard. David Ah Sing presented an inspirational delivery of the National Anthem and God Bless America.

The keynote speaker for the occasion was Brig. Gen. David Eichhorn, commander of the Air Force Flight Test Center.



## 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."

## UNSUNG HERO OF THE YEAR ANDY SCHILLINGLAW

Each and every Civ/Mil volunteer is very special to us. The Edwards AFB Civ/Mil Support Group could not be successful without the dedication and efforts of all our volunteers. However, each year we select one individual who has gone above and beyond what we could ever hope for in their volunteerism. We have numerous events throughout the year and some require more volunteer efforts than others. For example, our annual B-B-Q could not happen without the many volunteers who contribute greatly to its success each year. However, this event could not happen without the superior leadership and coordination efforts provided by the Chairman of this committee. The personal time and efforts volunteered are well beyond all expectations and the accomplishments of this highly successful annual event are too many to list. Suffice to say, without the team effort, enthusiasm and leadership by example, we would not have such a successful B-B-Q each year.

## AIR FORCE BALL

The Air Force Ball was held at Edwards AFB on September 21. Over 1,100 people attended.

The keynote speaker was Secretary of the Air Force, the Honorable Mr. Michael Wynne.

# MEMBER OF THE YEAR

## DANNY BAZZELL

During this past year, this member has performed and given to the Edwards AFB Civ/Mil Support Group above and beyond all expectations. His contributions were in an effort to provide not only the Civ/Mil Group Board of Director's, but also our membership overall, the finest quality and service possible. Through his personal efforts, we have increased communications, established greater accountability of records and provided insurance coverage of our Director's limiting their own personal liability. During a period when the organization failed to provide the best communications with our members, he worked countless hours to correct deficiencies, improve procedures and implemented corrective actions to increase proficiency. This just names a few of his many contributions he voluntarily provided to the Edwards AFB Civ/Mil Support Group.

## ANNUAL DUES RAISED

After due consideration, the Board approved the annual membership dues to be raised to \$60.

Also approved is a reduced membership fee of \$40 for spouses of paid members.

The Boards also approved a Corporate sponsor level membership at \$125 which would entitle them to representation with a limit of one specific member to represent the company (i.e.; only one person in that company will have base access and not a pass to be handed out to anyone who wants to use it).

Over the years many expenses of Civ/Mil were paid for personally by board members without charging the expenses to the Civ/Mil organization.

## HIGHER GROUND COFFEE HOUSE

Edwards Air Force Base Civilian/Military Support Group, led by President Aida O'Connor, raised more than \$30,000 to assist in making the café a reality.

The coffee house came into being as a result of efforts of volunteers, both civilian and military.

"This is an indication of the support we have for our base from the whole community," said Aida, "Everyone I asked for a donation from said 'yes'. They donated from the heart."

In addition to the donations from the community, area businesses also contributed to the project with discounts on furnishing and other supplies.

Higher Grounds Internet Café and Coffee House's main area includes couches, tables and chairs, televisions and a coffee bar with 6 laptop computers available for use in the area.

Volunteers from various organizations on base will staff Higher Grounds.

## OVERSEAS PACKETS

One of Civ/Mil projects over the past few years has been to provide deployment packets containing comfort items (playing cards, snacks, Band-Aids, etc.) to Air Force and Marine personnel of EAFB on orders for overseas assignments. Thus far, Civ/Mil has contributed over 700 packets and just received another request for 100 more. It is our privilege and honor to do this small token for our men and women protecting our country.

## EAFB HONORARY COMMANDERS PROGRAM

At the annual installation banquet, community leaders and EAFB commanders paired up for the next year.

Under the EAFB Honorary Commanders program, Center, Wing, Group and selected squadron Commanders will pair up for a 1-year "tour."

These pairings will encourage community-military leadership interaction and promote mutual involvement in base and community events.

The program offers a great opportunity for community leaders to gain insight in EAFB operations.

At the conclusion of the 1-year tour, host commanders will be paired with different honorary counterparts to promote expanded interaction with community leaders.

