

THE AOG BOARDROOM

James E. Spittler, Jr., '65, President/Board Chairman



In the past few months, your board of directors has maintained their every-other-week meeting schedule to deal with those issues which they feel are of interest or important to the membership.

We are pleased to inform you that all the wheels are in motion to establish the Gen. John K. Gerhart Scholarship in international relations. Current thinking is that the program will be for a graduating senior with a strong background in French since it was General Gerhart's wish that the studies be undertaken at the Sorbonne. It has not yet been determined whether the first scholarship will be presented in 1984 or 1985; however, if possible, it will be in 1984. Sorry to say, none of us can apply retroactively. It sounds like good duty.

As I am sure you're all aware, we are in the middle of our second Annual Fund Drive. I would urge all of you to be as generous as possible in helping to enhance the future cadet experience. We don't seem to enjoy the same budgetary largesse these days as was prevalent in the "old" days. The additional funds that we are able to supply to the Academy do make a difference. The difference isn't as great as we'd like, or as great as those of our sister academies with their million dollar annual funds, but it is significant, and with your support it will continue to grow.

As you'll see elsewhere in this issue, the AOG has undertaken a joint marketing effort with Keith Ferris, the internationally-known aviation artist. We think this is an opportunity for those of us who appreciate aviation art to acquire some excellent works at very reasonable prices. We feel this is consistent with our previous efforts to bring quality products to our members.

An item of great interest to both cadets and graduates alike is the class ring policy. Occasionally there is a request for a gold ring or a gold miniature. This seems to produce great controversy, so the superintendent decided it was time to set a policy that would

be effective in the years to come. It seems to me to be a reaffirmation of the existing policy, and here it is:

— There are two official rings, the full size and the mid size, and they will be white gold in color. Female cadets/graduates may purchase either the official mid-size or a miniature for their personal wear.

— Eligible cadets/graduates may purchase white gold colored miniatures for gift purposes.

Yellow gold, as a gift, may only be purchased if there is a doctor-certified allergy. This policy will be placed in a regulation and will apply to all classes, past and future. It should be noted that there was a very strong feeling from the Classes of '85 and '86 that all three rings should be official, and that there should be no "unofficial" ring.

Thanks to the good offices of Air Force Academy Athletic Association the AOG was able to send three representatives to the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La. There was tremendous graduate support from the entire region and their enthusiasm was not dampened one bit by the rainy weather. I hope John Fer, '62, has dried out by now.

We are pleased to announce that with the addition of six new graduate directors to the Falcon Foundation Board we now have a total of nine, nonactive duty graduates on the board. The new members are: Dick Klass '62, Al McArtor '64, Dick Schlosberg '65, Bart Holaday '65, Terry O'Donnell '66, and Randy Jayne '66. They join an impressive list of prominent retired military leaders as well as leaders in the aerospace industry and business.

As usual we seek your input on AOG matters. We will do our best to reply to all of your inputs and bring your views to the board for consideration. Keep the cards and letters coming.

General Smith Honored by Association

On October 29, 1983, the Association of Graduates presented its second Honorary Membership to Maj. Gen. Robert J. Smith, USAFR (Ret.). As you may know our first Honorary Member was Mrs. Gail McComas, the first Cadet Wing hostess.



General Smith accepts the association's second Honorary Membership from Mr. James E. Spittler, Jr., president of the Association of Graduates.

General Smith was honored for his service to his country, the U.S. Air Force, the Air Force Academy, and the Association of Graduates.

General and Mrs. Smith have endowed the AOG and USAFA with the funds which sponsor the annual Ira C. Eaker Lecture Series, the most prestigious speaker program at the Academy. Past speakers have included Gen. David Jones, Gen. T. Ross Milton, and Dr. Joseph Luns. The speaker for 1984 is General Brent Scowcroft. Through the Smiths' continued generosity, this program has been continually upgraded.

As a founding director, past chairman, and chairman emeritus of the Falcon Foundation, General Smith has had both a direct and indirect impact on the quality of cadets and graduates at USAFA. The hundreds of private prep school scholarships which have been provided by the Falcon Foundation have enabled many who didn't quite have the necessary high school background to get the additional training required to become successful cadets and officers. We can count a cadet wing commander and Rhodes Scholar among the Falcon Scholars.

General Smith has maintained an ongoing interest in the Air Force Academy and in the Association of Graduates, and has made available to both his wide range of experience in the military and in both the public and private sectors. We, the AOG and USAFA, have benefitted greatly from his wisdom, his experience, his patriotism, and his generosity. We honor him as best we can for his many contributions over many years and welcome him as an Honorary Member of the Association of Graduates.