



## Baltimore Chapter Association of Graduates U.S. Air Force Academy



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### Chapter News and Updates

*From the Chapter President:*

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the BCAOG Newsletter! Over the past several months, the Chapter has been very active and we also have exciting events planned for the rest of the year. In this edition, I will share some of the highlights from recent events and describe what's on the calendar. I'd also like to solicit your input! Do you have news that you would like to share with your fellow alumni? Have a job you need a graduate to fill? Want a graduate to speak at your kid's school? Know a great new restaurant that deserves a little attention? Want to share information about community activities? Send me an email with the information: my email address is [julieryan@julieryan.com](mailto:julieryan@julieryan.com).

With best regards and a Fast, Neat, Average....

*Julie Ryan, '82*

#### **What's in this edition:**

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#### **Founder's Day Celebration**

Every year, the greater USAFA community gathers to celebrate what we have come to call "Founder's Day": the anniversary of the day in 1954 that President Eisenhower signed legislation authorizing and funding the creation of our Air Force Academy. The actual anniversary day is

April 1, but because of Easter, Spring Breaks, and other scheduling conflicts, we held our Celebration on April 28, 2018.

Founder's Day is one of the most significant events in our calendar. On this day, we pause to consider the sacrifices that have been made in the defense of our nation, treasure the company of each other, and celebrate the opportunities that the future brings. The highlight of the evening is provided by our invited speaker. We have had many different speakers in the past, offering varying reminiscences and insights into the USAFA community, all of which have been outstanding. This year, however, we were truly honored and excited to have our very own Joe Morgan, '59, as our dinner speaker. His talk was thoughtful and worthy of reflection. A slightly redacted version of his actual speech is provided below. What's redacted? The side commentary, which was often hilarious as well as pointed, but not captured on paper. The speech was excellent and I wish I could share all of it with you, but the small part that I can share is well worth reading and considering.

It was a wonderful evening, although slightly bittersweet. Joe was a founding member of the BCAOG and, along with his wife Janet, has served as a friend and inspiration to the members. As he and Janet are moving to San Antonio, we will be deprived of their wit and wisdom, except from afar. We will miss them. Photos of the evening have been uploaded to the Google Drive Shared Photos site. Each of you should have gotten an invitation to collaborate from our awesome Networking Coordinator, Jeff Kubik, which gives you access to the photo album. I hope all of you will be inspired to join us next year for this event!

### **Prepared Remarks by Joe Morgan, '59**

This is for me a signal honor. It prompted thought and preparation, appearances to the contrary notwithstanding. I will offer opinion on:

- What the AOG is,
- What perhaps it "ought" to be, and
- How we, the members, might go about influencing achievement of the "ought".

In brief, I see the AOG as:

- A fraternal/sororal organization that gives us each a broader connection with "The Long Blue Line" than just our Squadron, Team, or Class.
- A vehicle to provide charitable support to persons and organizations we deem worthy.
- An informed group of knowledgeable, interested and perhaps dedicated people who understand many, perhaps even most, of the manifold activities that comprise USAFA, and wish to support it.



- A group with, collectively, more experience, a longer view, more objectivity and more wisdom than any of those who are presently charged with operating USAFA.

It is trivially easy to provide financial support. There are many organizations, including the AOG itself, dedicated to collecting money for sundry purposes. Some of that is good, some perhaps not so, some aligned with your, or my, personal preferences, some very far from that.

When he visited with us recently, the Superintendent was energetic, forceful, charming, and focused. All these things are necessary and desirable, and he is well chosen. However, from his public utterances, it is not perfectly clear that his vision for the Academy does not need to be improved. At the April Class Advisory Senate, Gen. Silveria received recent cadet achievements (scholarships, cutting edge research, athletics) and extolled the “third wave” model of education, which is “participatory and self-directed rather than passively receptive”.

The thing we ought to do is interact directly with him, with his staff, with the Faculty, with our Congressional representatives, with groups and with individual Cadets, to make them understand those who preceded them and who are the “old face in the mirror” showing them the results of a lifetime in our business.

And what is that business?

We, and they, are Warriors!

“Aha!” some might say, “not so: modern life, particularly the Military, is so vastly much larger than it was in the days of yore when you were young, and we must be so much more: administrators, health care professionals, teachers, technical experts, scientists, and so many more things beyond your ken. The AF Academy must keep pace with the times, reflect the complexity of modern society, provide opportunity for students to self-select most aspects of their education, participate in the ever-changing grand social evolution, etc., etc.”

Perhaps such things will still produce enough Warriors to make the cost of their education tolerable, but this is to miss the point:

Warriors will always be needed if we as a nation are to survive and prosper.

Further, Warriorship is not just skill in a limited number of clearly defined tasks, preferably performed in nasty environments or at very high speeds, or in secret locations far from the public eye. It is not a technical qualification, or a job title, or an advanced degree. It knows no gender.

***Warriorship is a state of mind, an attitude, even a philosophy: I serve a cause greater than myself, and I do so willingly, even unto death.***

So, I think we in the AOG ought to personally interact with as many of those in positions of authority as we can, at every level, and help them to understand what they individually ought to do to help the Academy and therefore its products: Air Force Officers of all sizes, shapes, inclinations, and (high) ability, who are Warriors, who graduate understanding what a Warrior is,

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and how they can apply the Warrior approach to their performance while they are on active duty and after they retire.

The oath of office has no expiration date.

Personally, since San Antonio is much closer to USAFA than we are here, I intend to support the Colorado Springs cohort in their hands-on work with the Academy and the Wing. Perhaps Max Miller will even let me do the Challenge Bridge indoctrination talk if I promise to behave.

## **Superintendent Reception**



In his remarks, Joe Morgan referenced the February reception we held for LtGen Silveria. This reception was a quick reaction opportunity: he was in the DC area and a hole opened up in his schedule. We jumped on the opportunity and hosted him for a lovely evening in Pasadena, Maryland. About 25 people attended, so the house was pretty crowded. The format was mingling followed by comments to the group from the Superintendent.

In his comments, LtGen Silveria described the changes that were occurring at the Academy and the motivation behind the changes. He also issued a challenge to everyone: to get more involved. He said (paraphrasing), “While you were cadets, there were things that were important to you. Have you thought about reaching back and reconnecting with those activities?” He mentioned several examples, such as clubs, and made the point that each of us has something to contribute to the Academy community. He concluded his comments by presenting the BCAOG with the official Superintendent challenge coin.

## **November 2017 Business Meeting**

Each Fall, the Chapter meets to review the year and to nominate and elect officers and Board members. This last year, we had a wonderful dinner at Clyde’s in Columbia, Maryland, during which we dispensed with the needed business. It was a cold evening, but the warmth and hospitality afforded by Clyde’s was welcoming. Please make a mental note and be on the

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lookout for an invite to participate in this year's Fall Business meeting. It will be held in October or November (haven't nailed down a date yet).

To sum up the meeting, the Chapter is in good shape. We have been able to take advantage of support from the greater AOG to develop new opportunities and expand our activities. The Chapter was awarded the status of "Distinguished Chapter" in 2014 and has maintained that status annually. This year, Guy Walsh, '79, represented us at the Chapter President's meeting and provided highlights from that event.

## **Upcoming Events**

There are several standard events we have every year besides the Founder's Day Celebration and the Fall Business meeting. Besides the following events, please keep your eyes peeled for emails inviting you to quick reaction events, such as the Superintendent Reception mentioned previously.

**Service Academies Career Conference:** May 10-100, 2018 in Washington DC. Good deal: the BCAOG Chapter has been authorized to subsidize individual registrations (sorry, not for companies) to this conference. But in order to take advantage of this deal, you need to tell us that you are registering for the conference. Then we will send the list of names to the AOG. The subsidy amount is limited, so it only applies to the first 20 chapter members that register. If you have already registered, please email me. If you haven't registered, please consider attending. This event benefits both individuals and hiring organizations, matching talent with need.

There will be a reception hosted by the AOG at Sine's on May 10 at 7:30 pm. You can RSVP for the reception at <http://www.cvent.com/d/bgqpxc> (opportunity closes on May 4).

**All Academy Summer Intern Reception:** this is a reception for all the cadets and midshipmen interning in the Baltimore area. In previous years, we have had the reception at the Crypto Museum near NSA. This year, we are considering other venues. If you have a location that you think would work for this event, please let us know. Guy Walsh, '79, is the POC for this event. If your company would like to be a sponsor for this event (in any amount), we gladly take donations.

**USAF Exchange Cadet Reception and Picnic:** each year, we invite the USAFA cadets who are spending the year at the Naval Academy to a picnic and reception. This event will be held in September after they have arrived, settled in, and figured out how to get around. This event is potluck and the food is always amazing. Jeff Kubik, '93, is the POC for this event.

## **BCAOG Organizational Structure**

The BCAOG is incorporated as a **tax-exempt** nonstock corporation. The stated purpose of the corporation is:

“To further the principles and welfare of the USAF Academy and its graduates through service to the community, country, and to fellow graduates.”

The official address of the organization is 821 West Benfield Road, Suite One, Severna Park, MD 21146. The official name of the corporation is Baltimore Chapter of the USAFA Association of Graduates, Inc. The registered agent of the corporation is Steven Berger, '76, who also serves as Secretary. The following individuals currently hold leadership positions in the corporation.

President: Julie Ryan, '82 ([julieryan@julieryan.com](mailto:julieryan@julieryan.com))  
Vice-President: Todd Raines, '85  
Secretary: Steve Berger, '76  
Treasurer: Lou Nolan, '86  
Networking Coordinator: Jeff Kubik, '93

Chairman of the Board: Jeff Kubik, '93

### Board Members

Guy Walsh, '79  
Bill Barry, '79  
Joe Morgan, '59  
Kirk Hunigan, '82  
Raul Cisneros, '86  
Mike Cunningham, '76  
Steve Miller, '77  
Mark Zlabotny, '71  
Tim Collins, '82

Officers serve yearly. Members of the Board serve terms of three years.