S I T R E P

DATE:	May 3, 2021
TO:	TGA Members
FROM:	TOPGUN Association
SUBJECT:	2nd Quarter 2021 SITREP

Greeting TGA members:

We would like to briefly update you on the TOPGUN Association. Although there will always be a social element to the TGA, post reunion, the TGA's focus has shifted to supporting TOPGUN. CNAF, NAWDC, and CNATRA, as the designated issuing authority, granted the TGA approval to become the authorized alumni organization for TOPGUN. Use of the TG patch for the TGA logo was also approved. The TGA logo says it all: "TOPGUN Association" surrounds the TG patch. The TGA's role is to be of service and support to TOPGUN and its parent command, NAWDC. These approvals came with strict conditions, including "**The TGA must always reflect and preserve the integrity, character, and dignity of the Navy and NAWDC, and be consistent with all terms in this memo."** There is no mention of TOPGUN. The approval states "**Navy has the right to withdraw support...for any reason."** Finally, "**gifts or other benefits to the NFWS are to be coordinated with the Commander of NAWDC."** TOPGUN was authorized to coordinate and informally discuss potential Direct support gifts with the TGA.

The first tenet of TGA's mission statement is "To support the NFWS in the performance of its mission". That support should make a difference in the execution of the school's mission, be sustainable from a financial and manpower standpoint, be legal and acceptable to the Navy, and able to pass a TG murder board. Using the SECNAV gifting instruction, and in coordination with NAWDC, CNAF, and VCNO JAGs, Direct support in the form of gifts to TOPGUN have been initiated. To prove

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our gifting capability, and gain CNAF endorsement of the TGA, the initial gifts included refrigerators and furniture. Currently, the TGA is undertaking the task of updating the AV equipment in three TG classrooms and the Ault auditorium. Contractors have submitted initial bids and evaluations are underway. Final approval from the VCNO will be required.

Three social events with the current staff are planned in 2021. In June, TG will deploy for a BFM Det at MCAS Miramar. Planning for an offsite social gathering at the *Only Yesterday* military memorabilia museum in San Diego is almost complete. This will be a terrific evening of reconnecting TG with the TGA. TGA will also have a booth at Hook ’21 scheduled for 9-12 September in Reno, NV. Lastly, we will have the third TG old Bro exchange in Fallon during the class Grad 1v1 in the fall. The first two Grad 1v1 events were huge successes. They included briefs by the TG CO, interaction with the staff, attendance at the Grad 1v1 event, MIG Killer debrief, and final debrief at the club. We are also exploring opportunities to host events on the East Coast for members and staff. Please continue checking the website for updates. We are delighted to report the current TG Bros are strongly in favor of, and value, reconnecting with the old Bros.

Below is a brief review of the TGA Achievements to date:

- Formed the TGA and obtained non-profit and tax-exempt status.
- Held successful 50th reunion.
- Navy recognition as TG alumni organization.
- TGA logo using Patch approved.
- TGA leadership restructure from original construct.
- Acquired a major sponsor.
- Website, which includes videos from CO TG and TG Bros, approved by NAWDC.
- U.S.S. Midway F-4 Phantom Ready Room taken over by the TGA.
- Initial Direct support effort concluded with refrigerators and furniture.
- AV upgrades for classrooms and Ault room in process.
- Stan Stokes donated artwork of a 4x6-foot painting depicting all the airplanes flown by TOPGUN. An appropriate display location has been identified. A copy will also be displayed at the San Diego International Airport.
- Together with the Tailhook Education Foundation, established a TGA scholarship with over $63,000 in funds. A $3,500 scholarship is granted annually.

Larger projects, which the TGA calls Indirect Support, go beyond TG and will require NAWDC and Navy approval. They are under consideration. There is no shortage of “big ideas and vision” within the TGA. The concern of the TG/NAWDC leaders, and

TGA leadership, is that TGA ignores its approved area of operations. It is essential for the survival of TGA that it stays aligned with TG/NAWDC and does not pursue its own agenda - no matter how well intentioned. The view from Fallon relating to the upcoming TG movie - they already have enough Navy and public visibility. They do not need the TGA to engage the Navy or the public. Quarterly updates from the Deputy Commander at NAWDC are in works. If approved, they will be posted on the members-only areas of the website under the byline: ***From the Flight Line***.

Membership in the TOPGUN Association is open to former TG Instructors, TG Staff and TG class graduates. TGA is not focused on rank - call sign is sufficient - the connections that matter: TOPGUN and excellence. The website's membership renewal system is now operational. Lifetime members should have already received an email requesting current contact info and shirt size. The TGA certificate and membership card for Lifetime members should soon follow. We strongly encourage Lifetime membership: TGA operates with part-time admin, pay-as-needed accounting and legal assistance to lessen costs. We encourage you to engage former TG Instructors and Graduates in your network. Ask them to join the TGA. Please mention the TGA is financially solid and plans to remain operational as long as TG exists. Donations are always welcome. However, the TGA is not now focused on defense companies for sponsorship or donations. Instead, our plan is to cultivate sponsor relationships with world-class corporate companies, as we have done with **Jersey Mike's**, our major sponsor. Membership efforts will initially focus on the existing list of former TG Instructors and Staff. Next, we will focus on TG Graduates. Other than class pictures on the walls at TG, there is little contact information on TG grads. Graduate verification will take time, but we are committed to confirming all claimed TG Grads. Former TG Instructors and TG staff have already been verified.

The TGA is approaching another series of Board of Director, President, Executive Committee, and Committee rotations. If you have interest in serving in any of these capacities, we would ask you to please contact VP of Admin, Darrell "Condor" Gary, at darrell@garyhouse.net or the TGA admin, Geri/Bulldog, at admin@topgunassociation.org.

THANK YOU for your continued support of and commitment to TOPGUN and the TOPGUN Association!