TOPGUN ASSOCIATION
SITREP | JULY 2022

Since the easing of COVID restrictions, the TOPGUN Association (TGA) has been active in increasing activities in support of our mission statement. In direct support of Navy Fighter Weapons School (NFWS), we have purchased and delivered new furniture and stainless-steel refrigerators. We are currently working on upgrading the audio/video systems in the classrooms, as well as the Ault auditorium. The staff is developing a list of items that we may decide to acquire which will directly help them in support of the execution of their mission.

The TGA is also making headway in enhancing the value of membership and sponsorship. Our goal is to provide opportunities to connect patch wearers across the country/world, and as appropriate, to connect with the current NFWS staff. The knowledge that they are supported by the community of former TOPGUN staff and students has had a positive impact upon morale and performance.

In June of 2021, the TGA hosted an event that included the entire NFWS staff, their families, RDML McCoy (NAWDC) and many former TOPGUN instructors and their families. For all 118 attendees, this was a memorable and impactful event. In October of 2021, the TOPGUN staff was in San Diego for a BFM Det. During the det, the TGA sponsored a luncheon on a non-flying day which brought together the current staff and former instructors. It was a unique opportunity to gather in small groups and get an unvarnished account of the current state of affairs from those who live it in today's environment. In April of 2022, 18 TGA members ventured to NAS Fallon for the Grad 1v1 Exercise. This provided all participants a view of the rapidly changing world in which NFWS operates. Participants toured the Fleet Training Building (FTB) and were briefed by the C.O. of TOPGUN. Following that was a "Burger Burn" with staff and adversaries. We were later escorted to tour the flight line and the new Thach building where leading-edge technology is being utilized to meet future peer adversaries.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: On the weekend of 23-25 September 2022, the TGA will host a VIP Chalet at the Miramar Air Show. This is intended to connect our members, acknowledge our current sponsors as well as to attract new sponsors. The Chalet will be front row at show center. Participants will receive access to the restricted VIP area, SWAG from the TGA, dedicated seating and catered food/beverage throughout the day. Guests will have the opportunity to hang with former TOPGUN instructors as well as the Blue Angels.

After the air show, they will also have an opportunity to meet the team. The TGA, in conjunction with its sponsors, will underwrite the bulk of the expense. TGA members and their guest will be able to attend the air show and have the Chalet experience for a discounted price of $75 per person. More details will follow as show organizers provide us with additional information.

TAILHOOK 2022: The Hook '22 symposium will be held 8-10 September 2022 at the Nugget Casino in Sparks, NV. If you are interested in attending, please visit https://www.tailhook.net/hook22 to register. TGA members are eligible for a discounted registration fee, so please contact the TGA Admin Coordinator at admin@topgunassociation.org for the promo code. Stop by the TGA exhibitor table and say hello!

WE NEED YOUR HELP: The TGA is an all-volunteer organization. It will only function as long as we have dedicated individuals willing to help with execution of our mission. Currently, we need volunteers on the east coast and other areas who are willing to take the lead in organizing and implementing events. The TGA can provide the template for these events, administrative support and seed money when necessary. This will expand our ability to raise sponsorship funds and to provide more value to our members. If you have a vision and are willing to help, please contact the TGA Admin Coordinator or any member of the Board of Directors.

Finally, we hope you have a festive and safe 4th of July holiday!

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin “Proton” McLaughlin
TGA President

Darrell “Condor” Gary
TGA Admin Officer