S I T R E P

DATE:	August 24, 2022
TO:	TGA Members
FROM:	CDR “Vespa” Stigi, TOPGUN CO
SUBJECT:	3rd Quarter 2022 TOPGUN SITREP

Greeting TGA members:

After a challenging summer in the Fallon heat, the Staff recently patched 17 new TOPGUN graduates (11 Class Fighters, three Adversaries, and three Air Intercept Controllers) with the conclusion of TOPGUN Class 03-22. The Bros were honored to have Willy Driscoll and Heater Heatley as part of our graduation events, and their stories, experiences, and mentorship added to an already fantastic graduation day lineup. This class was an enormous success despite our resourcing challenges, and I am incredibly proud of the warfighters we are sending back out to lead the Fleet.

Not surprisingly, the Staff didn’t take the foot off the gas, even as the Class came to its conclusion. During the final week, the Bros executed four outstanding Murderboards to include FA-18 A/A Employment, F-35 Fusion and Datalinks, FA-18 Defensive Countermeasures, and Air Control Communications. The newest Navy and Marine Corps Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) upheld the exceptionally high bar for a TOPGUN Murderboard, providing graduate-level teaching and a depth of knowledge unsurpassed anywhere in the Fleet.

In the next two weeks, Bros will support an Operational Test exercise in Pt. Mugu, CA, two warfare working groups here in Fallon, and continue preparations for a combined air and surface Warfare Commanders’ Conference, which will include the CNO, PACFLT, and all Flag-rank tactical warfighting commanders. This will lead us into Tailhook ’22, where the Staff looks forward to connecting with any members of the TGA who are making the annual pilgrimage to Reno. All the Bros are pumped for a great event and some much-

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needed Staff social time before we hit the ground running with our annual Re-Blue tactics refresher and right into Class 01-23 in mid-September.

As I begin my time as the TOPGUN CO, I want to thank all members of the TGA for continuing your stellar execution of the first tenet of the TGA's mission: "to support the NFWS in the performance of its mission." Your support, through direct and indirect avenues, has been crucial to our continued success. While we have encountered some hurdles with Navy legal and security support, these speed bumps have not deterred the Staff from desiring greater interaction with the TGA and the wealth of knowledge and experience of its members. This desire formed the genesis of the "Legacy Panel" that we plan to include as part of our graduation events starting in December.

For future classes, TOPGUN will be inviting a rotating panel of three Old Bros to come and talk to the class on graduation day regarding their experiences as Patch Wearers and what it means to be a part of our legacy of excellence in air combat. Proton and I will coordinate closely as we determine 'what success looks like' with this future event and narrow the focus of the panel to what will be most impactful and beneficial for our future Patch Wearers. Expect more guidance for members coming out to Fallon as we lock down the desired results for this new addition to the Class.

Before I sign off, I'd like to encourage all of you to reach out to your fellow Old Bros who are not yet members of the TGA. The continued vitality of the TGA depends on our membership, and I hope we can inspire more recent graduates to join the TGA. While the current Staff is well supported by our leadership and extremely lucky to have RDML "Pepper" McCoy as the NAWDC Commander, there may come a time when TOPGUN needs the support of the TGA for something more critical than reunions, social events, and Staff interaction. Our history has proven that TOPGUN can often be a lightning rod for the non-tactical. While I hope the day never comes where TOPGUN's existence is again called into question, I believe the TGA will be critical should that occur.

From all the Bros, thank you for your enduring commitment to TOPGUN … and if I see you at 'Hook, the beer's on Proton!

To the Patch!

Vespa