Season's Greetings from the TOPGUN Association:

We hope this TGA update finds you and yours in good health and spirits as the holiday season approaches. With this time upon us, we felt it timely to update our members, sponsors, NFWS Staff, and friends about some of our recent accomplishments, and highlight significant activities upcoming in the new year.

Commander Blaine "Coco" Felloney and the TOPGUN staff are doing phenomenal work in developing today's aviators into SFTIs who face a more sophisticated and significant threat than we could have imagined in many of our own tenures. The world's finest technological equipment and training edge we once enjoyed as Navy and Marine Corps services has eroded, thanks to peer and near-peer threat countries investing heavily in advancing their own capabilities. Rest assured, however, that the staff at the schoolhouse has a laser focus on all the right things to ensure our nation's ability to maintain global order, and succeed on the battlefield when called.

It is our desire, executing in accordance with Navy Leadership guidance, to help reduce the burdens of NFWS staff, allowing them to develop the SFTIs who are so critical to the fleet. This SITREP captures recent efforts of the TGA, expounds upon future events and activities, and highlights some of our recent accomplishments to illustrate how we are executing in support of NFWS and our **mission statement**. Following is a brief summary of where we have been and where we are going.

2023 Recap

Perhaps even more so than in the past, this year has been particularly active, and next year promises to be increasingly so. Below are some of the more significant efforts and accomplishments of the past year:

- Participated in three TOPGUN Legacy Panel debriefs, three MiG Killer debriefs, and several class graduations at NAS Fallon
- Through the contributions of new sponsors, purchased and provided a custom, six-person golf cart to the NFWS staff to support more efficient flight line access
- Completed agreements, pending JAG approval, to provide fully funded furniture and AV equipment replacement for TOPGUN. Furniture and AV equipment purchases are thanks to the generous donations of our sponsors.
- Hosted TGA/TG BFM Det Rendezvous at the Belly Up in San Diego

- Conducted inaugural East Coast TGA Dinner in Virginia Beach
- Manned hosted chalets and sponsored Wounded Veterans & Gold Star families at the 2023 Oceana and Miramar Air Shows
- Participated in Tailhook ‘23
- Provided a well-received Air Combat brief to China Lake Engineering Staff
- Initiated TOPGUN display development to be located in the National Naval Aviation Museum at Pensacola Naval Air Station
- Commenced expansion of the association to add departments and committees focused on enhancing execution to the TGA mission statement
- Staffed and initiated planning efforts for the upcoming 55th reunion in San Diego
- With the tremendous support of our generous Table Captain Sponsors, held a Veteran’s Day Wounded Veteran & Gold Star Family member dinner fundraiser in Dallas, Texas, with all proceeds to be distributed to wounded veterans & Gold Star family initiatives



Rendezvous at the Belly Up, San Diego



East Coast TGA Dinner, Virginia Beach





Flightline golf cart presented to TGA staff in April



TGA at the Oceana Air Show



RADM Wikoff and recent Navy Cross recipient CAPT Royce Williams at the Miramar Air Show

Active involvement of our volunteers has been instrumental to increasing the velocity of our efforts, and the contributions and involvement of our Sponsors have been absolutely key to our being able to successfully orchestrate and conduct these events - many thanks to you all for everything you have done for the TGA this year!

2024 Plan

As mentioned above, the organization is in the process of expanding in order to broaden our horizons and enhance execution of accomplishing our mission statement. Our mission is at the heart of every decision we make and every goal we set here within the association. We are in the process of reviewing and vetting our detailed plans for next year. As events and dates are vetted, they will be added to the calendar and shared via periodic SITREP, or via one of our social media sites (referenced further below). At a minimum, expect a repeat or continuation of many of the efforts highlighted for 2023. Some specific events already on the calendar include:

Legacy Panels	TBD - Apr, Aug, Dec
TOPGUN 55th Anniversary Reunion (San Diego)	16-18 May
Tailhook (Reno)	22-24 Aug
Oceana Air Show	21-22 Sep
Miramar Air Show	27-29 Sep

With new offices and committees in process of being implemented, we expect to see an increase in the pace of activity across a broader spectrum, most significantly in activities including reunion planning and execution, membership expansion, fundraising, and expansion of Gold Star Family support efforts.

Reunion Planning and Execution

The TOPGUN 55th anniversary celebration will be held 16-18 May in San Diego and includes a Ready Room, Welcome Aboard Reception, TOPGUN Staff Forum, Spouse Luncheon, Golf Tournament, and Banquet. Registration for members and current/former staff is open now on the TGA website. Accommodations at the **DoubleTree San Diego Mission Valley** are on a space available basis, so please be sure to sign up promptly if your intention is to attend. To register or for additional information, please visit the **55th Reunion Event** page.

Membership Expansion

With respect to Membership expansion, we have initiated a membership drive to reach out to all legacy staff and graduates. We are using this communique, and will continue with future such communications, to better illustrate how membership and sponsor dollars, and volunteer efforts, are used to provide direct benefit in support of the association's mission statement. In brief, these contributions enhance the working environment of TOPGUN staff and students, increase awareness of the school's legacy and its critical role in enhancing Naval aviation and its warfighting capability, and help us to inspire tomorrow's aviators and military leaders. TOPGUN instructors and graduates form an elite fraternity and bond, and the unique combination of knowledge, skill, and shared experience brings tremendous weight to inspiring future leaders and to ensuring the continuing success of this unique institution.

If you are not already enrolled as a member, or if your membership has lapsed, we highly encourage you to **join now** or **renew today**. Please also help us by spreading the word to fellow TOPGUN grads - while we have a robust database of legacy staff, piecing together the whereabouts of 4500+ graduates has been an arduous and time-consuming process; your help here is greatly appreciated.

We also welcome volunteers to support our efforts. With only one paid employee and no dedicated office spaces (we have suitably acclimated to the remote work environments), our overhead costs are extremely low, with the vast majority of our funds being applied directly to value-added activities supporting our mission statement. We employ the same SME concept that worked so well in TOPGUN's development and evolution, allowing volunteers to immediately bring something to the party while networking within the TGA family as a whole. If you want to make a difference and learn more about volunteer opportunities, please **e-mail the TGA Admin Coordinator**.

Fundraising

While the Fundraising office has a focus on events and activities that seek donations and sponsorships, direct and legacy donations are always very much appreciated. If you would like to contribute now, please download and complete the **Donation Form**, and mail as indicated with your contribution. If you would like to contribute directly to, or learn more about, Wounded Veteran & Gold Star Family support, please **Contact Us** and we will be in touch with you.

Farewells

We wish to recognize our recently fallen former Bros, Rick "Wigs" Ludwig and James "Rookie" Robb. Both played pivotal roles in advancing Naval Tactical Aviation, and in the TOPGUN mission, during active duty and following their dedicated Navy service. Many of us benefited immeasurably in our own careers from their leadership and mentoring. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families; their legacies leave an indelible mark on Naval Aviation.

In Conclusion

Clearly, it has been an eventful year, with a host of events and activities on the horizon. We are tremendously grateful to our sponsors and members, without whom none of this would be possible, as well as the TOPGUN Staff and NAWDC Leadership, whose collaboration has been key to continuing our successful support efforts. For everyone, we intend to keep you posted regularly on upcoming events, and to issue periodic SITREPs reflecting TGA activity. You can also keep abreast of the latest developments by visiting us on **Facebook**, **LinkedIn**, and **Instagram**. Click the provided links, or search "TOPGUN Association" within those platforms to join and follow those posts.

On behalf of the TGA Board of Directors, we appreciate your continuing support in furthering the legacy of the institution that has played such a prominent role in our lives. We also look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming events in 2024.

To the Patch!

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin "Proton" McLaughlin
TGA President



Marty "Streak" Chanik
TGA Vice President

Copyright (C) 2023 TOPGUN Association. All rights reserved.

The TOPGUN Navy Fighter Weapons School Association dba TOPGUN Association ("TGA") is a California Public Benefit Corporation and is recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) – EIN: 82-1206798. The TGA is a nonprofit entity consisting of former members of the United States Navy Fighter Weapons School, and is not part of the United States Navy. No endorsement, express or implied, of the Association or its activities is made by the Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, or the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center. The use of the Navy Fighter Weapons School crest is used with the express permission of the United States Navy.

Our mailing address is:
P.O. BOX 22881, SAN DIEGO, CA 92192