

Military Affairs Committee
1/11/2008
8:30 a.m.
MAC FCU

Attendance: Butch Stein, Chair; Marilyn Romano; Diane Shoemaker; Cheryl Adamson; Wayne Tolliver; Ssgt. Gloria Wilson; Dave Gardner; Jim Malingowski; Bill Brophy; Diane Hutchison; Margie Achman; Ben Johnson; Connie Storch; Kurt Newman; Kelly Mellard; Layne St. John; Steve Lundgren; Billie Blanchard; and Michelle Gibson

- 1. Introductions.**
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Motion: Bill Brophy; second: Jim Malingowski:
approved: yes.
- 3. Old Business:**
 - a. None to report
- 4. New Business:**
 - a. Military Appreciation Banquet
 - i. Tuesday, March 25
 - ii. First MAB Committee Meeting
 1. Thursday, January 17th, at 10:00 a.m.
 2. No speaker yet—will know in a week
 - iii. Report from Diane Hutchison: Dates were constrained to available dates in the Carlson Center schedule and Sen. Stevens schedule, and settled on this night as the best. Considered that Good Friday was not a good night to have the event.
 - b. Butch Stein reported that MG Layfield talked to him around Christmas, and is looking for a resolution of support on what the Army means to the Interior of Alaska, and we are working on a resolution to have at the next meeting to say that military bases are important to the Interior of Alaska.
 - i. D.C. may not really recognize the value of the Interior.
 - ii. Will get available numbers on bases for FY06.
- 5. Quick Announcements**
 - a. 168th
 - i. Security forces returning from Turkey in February, and from Kyrgyzstan in March.
 - ii. Annual awards ceremony coming up on the February 9th at the AFB Theater at 2 p.m.; coming back from Turkey in February.
 - b. 354th
 - i. Confirmation that 6/24/08, Thunderbirds are coming. Event open to the public, but limiting to first 10,000.
 - ii. February 8th is our annual awards at the Westmark.
 - c. ANG Wing Family
 - i. Nothing to report; doing great.
 - d. American Red cross
 - i. Thanks to Althea St. Martin, Alyeska, and those who helped with delivering gifts and food to 70 families at Christmas.
 - e. ASYMCA
 - i. Moving to Bldg 1047 in the next couple of weeks, and getting things ready for the move
 - f. Sen. Murkowski

- i. When you travel to D.C., let us know ahead so we can arrange appointments; check her website when visiting DC, and it will give you a list of attractions, and tell you if you can get Congressional tickets.
- g. Sen Stevens
 - i. In town 2 days this week, and headed off to the Far East, South Korea, and other places. Africa is seen as the next big problem in the world. Back in town in about two weeks for the Lincoln Day Dinner on 2/2. Expect more visits this year, coming monthly or more. Working on MAB Dinner.
 - ii. Want to thank everyone that helped with the ASYMCA party— Sen. Stevens looked at pictures and you have his sincere thank you.
- h. ESGR
 - i. Looking for businesses that support ESGR—awards in April.
- i. AFA
 - i. Appreciate attendance and participation in our programs-- attendance is increasing. The program in February is Marilyn Romano
- j. Boeing
 - i. Nothing to report
- k. FWW PAO
 - i. Andy Westcott is getting a Silver Star award, and this is open to public—40 years waiting. General Layfield here on January 16th for this.
 - ii. Strykers exercising next week—driving on post—come on FWW give leeway, drivers in training

6. Program—Joint Civilian Orientation Conference - Marilyn Romano

- a. Butch Stein nominated me to be a participant of the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. The Defense Secretary organized the trip, and 40 were selected to go who were business leaders in their communities who are somewhat familiar with the military but not actively involved.
- b. They don't tell you where you are going to go before for security reasons. Knew had to report to Honolulu on November 2nd. We were going to the Pacific theater to places under Pacific Command. Lucky enough to go with CPT Matt Manning, a pilot who worked in the Pentagon.
- c. Hear personal opinions today of Marilyn Romano, not the News Miner.
- d. First day we were on Guam, then Manila, then Okinawa, and Iwo Jima— where we were allowed an unusual and unforgettable 4 hours.
- e. Anderson AFB, Guam
 - i. Flew from Honolulu to Anderson, where it was 110 degrees and on Air Force Day. We participated in Mass Casualty training. The purpose of this trip was not to sit in a board room, but about getting in the field and doing what they do. Helped secure the perimeter of the landing strip where the helicopter is going to land. They do training over and over again. The reality of what goes on in the world today hit home. Have to decide who they are going to work on, as well as who's not going to live, and have to leave them. Almost overwhelming experience to imagine what we ask our military to do. No one dies alone if they can help it.

- ii. Put injured parties on bus to ambulance, to helicopter, then practiced taking them back off the helicopter. Constantly looking for the enemy around you. Asking young men and women to do a great deal—they take care of each other, and protect each other. Proud to show us what they did.
 - iii. Photo of working on a GBU-50 bomb.
 - iv. There was a B-2 bomber there, but were not able to walk up to it.
 - f. US Naval Base Guam
 - i. Had briefing—this naval base focuses on training on explosive ordinances. Saw a robot that detonates bombs. A computer is run from the back of a humvee—in the event have to send a human being, a bulky suit is used. They have not yet had to use it—the only part of body that is not 100 percent protected are the hands. Would use it if they have to.
 - ii. On the left, you see cell phones that had been used as bombs. There are teams that put them back together to learn how they work, and sometimes can tell which group used it.
 - iii. Now in the high-speed boats that are used—travel in threes, and everything is done by hand signal.
 - iv. More guns, and dinner with fine group of young men. The next day had lunch on the USS Lawson. Met a young man whose job is to make sure the bomb is ready to fire—said he had the most important job on the ship, and loves the experience of being on ship.
 - g. Manila, Phillipine Islands
 - i. No installations in Manila. There was a security briefing from Homeland Security with a recent bomb detonation—al Qaeda has a strong foothold in the southern Phillipines, as well as homegrown terrorists. Met by police escort plus. Told not to go anywhere alone. They closed down a shopping for us to go after hours—wanted us to feel the communities we were in and experience the culture. We had six security guards with dogs with us.
 - 1. Spend time at the U. S. Embassy in Manila. Plaque that outside embassy—many died during WWII
 - 2. Christy Kinney ambassador to Philippines and they love her. No American military presence there.
 - 3. Went to American cemetery in Manila—there are over 17,000 Americans buried here.
 - h. Okinawa—Kadina Air Base with the Army
 - i. MREs for lunch.
 - ii. Had banners we all signed that every branch received—behind the Army group were Patriot missiles.
 - iii. In two flight simulators that day.
 - i. Okinawa - Camp Hanson with the Marines
 - i. On Marine Day, and got to celebrate the 232nd birthday of the Marine Corps with them.
 - ii. Volunteered to go out of the belly of a helicopter by a rope.
 - iii. Did live fire, and they showed us how they crouch and move when approaching targets.
 - j. Iwo Jima

- i. There on the 232nd birthday of the Marine Corps. Nobody lives there or goes there, except for 20 Japanese sailors that live on the air strip.
- ii. Sacred ground—remains that have never been found—Once a year specialists go to find remains, and they still return remains to families.
- iii. Medical caves of Japanese during the battle—quietest time for the group.
- iv. Mount Suribachi—monument on the spot where the flag was raised.
- v. Invasion Beach
 - 1. Sand called volcanic ice
 - 2. They let us get a bag of it and brought some today. When they landed and tried to get equipment off, it sank and there was no stability. Have sand if know marines—it is special for them.
- k. Honolulu, HI
 - i. Spent day with Coast Guard, which falls under Homeland Security
 - ii. They save 14 lives and millions of dollars of illegal drugs/day in Hawaii
 - iii. 90% of commerce moved over water

7. Thoughts

- a. LG spoke to us in Okinawa about a lot of people in this world who say they want to support troops, and many of those people are the same people who say support troops but not military. He said it makes no sense—if anyone believes you can sit around table with people from North Korea or other places, they are crazy, and don't understand, and if don't give military equipment need, it's detrimental. You will understand why we can't stop. China currently in production with an unknown number of new ships, and building planes as fast as they can build them. One of every three of our planes is not operational.
- b. Life changing because of people met—saw humanitarian work done by airmen in Guam. Help people help around the world.

End of Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle B. Gibson