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Defense Orientation Conference Association



DOCA's 63rd Annual Meeting Overview

November 2014

A year marked by bad luck weather ended on a high note as blues skies and comfortable temperatures marked DOCA's visit to Colorado Springs last week. 134 members, spouses and guests encamped at the opulent Broadmoor resort for the week, including seven members who were on their first DOCA program: Robin Graham of Santa Barbara, CA; Stephen Lee of Cincinnati, OH; Bob McCullough of Sewickley, PA; Maynard Oliverius of Topeka, KS; Frederick Rickey of Providence, RI; John Treanor of Houston, TX; and John Walker of Los Altos, CA.

Board and Executive Committee members met Monday afternoon, 27 October, to wrap up our fiscal year, approve next year's budget and deal with other housekeeping responsibilities. The Board also

voted unanimously to elect Vicki Churchward as our president for the next two years. Per DOCA's Bylaws, Bob Currie, who has provided exceptional leadership for our organization for the past two years, now assumes duties as Chairman of the Board and Frank Weinberg becomes Past Chairman. Other newly elected officers and directors who assumed office were: David Kaplan, Vice President of Region I; Tom Ellis, Vice President of Region V; Bob Mosier, Vice President of Region VI; Douglas Lempereur and



Denis Retoske, Directors from Region III; John Kelly, Jr., Director from Region IV; Ken Rohl, Tom Tierney and Garry Hubert, Directors from Region VI. And all of this was accomplished without causing any of our members to suffer the TV ads, negative campaigning and recorded phone messages that mark most other elections!

A Welcome Reception Monday evening marked the end of the first day of the 63rd Annual Meeting at the Broadmoor.





USAFA: We gathered bright and early Tuesday for a full day of activities at the United States Air Force Academy. Lieutenant General Michelle Johnson, Superintendent of the Academy, greeted us upon arrival and provided a comprehensive overview of USAFA's mission and organizational structure. Faculty presentations were designed to highlight some of the unique learning and research opportunities offered to the cadets.

Later that morning the 4000-strong Corps of Cadets offered a rousing welcome when we joined them for lunch in Mitchell Hall, the cadet dining facility. A tour of the state of the art athletic facilities demonstrated how the cadets stay in shape and hone their competitive edge with a variety of sports. We rounded out the day with a visit to the Academy's airfield, where cadets learn to fly small aircraft, take soaring lessons in gliders, and engage in both competitive and demonstration parachute teams.



Fort Carson: On Wednesday, we met our Army escort officers at the entrance to Fort Carson and proceeded to a Command Brief by Major General Paul LaCamera, Commanding General of the 4th Infantry Division. We then split into two groups and took turns touring the Training Support Center, where high tech simulators allow Soldiers effective but low cost training on everything from small arms to armored vehicles, and a very detailed mock Iraqi village where combat skills can be honed in a realistic environment. Lunch with

4th ID Soldiers was followed by a windshield tour of the base and a quick visit to the museum that highlights the history of the 4thID.

Peterson AFB: The next day started with a welcome and briefing from Major General Terrence Feehan of Air Force Space Command, and presentations by General Charles Jacoby, Commander of NORAD and Northern Command, and Brigadier General Gregory Bowen of the Army's Space and Missile Defense Command and Army Strategic Command. The Air Force's 21st Space Wing was highlighted during a lunch with Airmen and civic leaders from Colorado Springs.



The 302nd Air Wing and 310th Space Wing hosted us in the afternoon, and static displays focused on the C-130H aircraft and their missions of cargo/troop transportation, aeromedical evacuation and firefighting. That evening, we celebrated DOCA's 63rd Annual Meeting with a black tie banquet at the Broadmoor, where the Air Force's Rampart Winds provided a patriotic program and General LaCamera served as keynote speaker.

Cheyenne Mountain: On our last day, a smaller group was allowed the opportunity to tour Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station. Mr. Steve Rose, 721st Mission Support Group Deputy Director, explained the history and current mission of the station before members ventured into the mountain for a first-hand look. Many people think of this extraordinary facility as simply a relic of the Cold War but in fact, as Mr. Rose explained, it is still very much relevant to our national defense and an important strategic asset.