

# NEWSLETTER

## The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of The Friends, I wish to express my appreciation to the Superintendent, Lt. Gen. John F. Regni, for the informative talk on contemporary issues at the Academy which he presented at The Friends' annual luncheon on May 17, 2006. His talk was well received by our membership and we deeply appreciate his support.

On behalf of The Friends, I also wish to offer my condolences to the family of Brig. Gen. Robert F. McDermott who passed away on August 28, 2006. His extraordinary innovations while serving as the Dean of Faculty, 1959-1968, are legendary. His subsequent contributions to the Academy, including his continued support of the Library will be greatly missed.

As The Friends continue to pursue projects that are developed from the rich holdings of the Library, I am extremely pleased to announce that The Friends have entered into an agreement with Dr. Phillip S. Meilinger to produce a biography of Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, the Academy's first Superintendent. The details of this important project are noted elsewhere in this newsletter. I am also pleased to note that numerous positive responses have been received regarding The Friends' re-publication of portions of Brig. Gen. George V. Fagan's benchmark history of the Academy. The new publication, entitled *Air Force Academy Heritage: The Early Years*, is an important resource for acquainting cadets, faculty, staff, and members of the public with the Academy's early history.

As we near The Friends' 20th anniversary, I continue to feel a great sense of pride and satisfaction in serving as your President.

### FRIENDS' 2006 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND LUNCHEON



*Lt. Gen. A. P. Clark, (left) presents Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John F. Regni with a copy of The Genesis of Flight.*

The Board of Directors of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library held its annual meeting on May 17, 2006. Our President, General Clark, opened the meeting. After the formal opening Secretary Phil Caine briefly reviewed the activities of The Friends during the past year. He placed special emphasis on the role of The Friends as the keepers of the Academy's heritage, the continuation of the oral history program with Word One, Inc., the acquisition of the papers of the first Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, the bequest to The Friends from the estate of Maj. Gen. Richard Yudkin, and the publication of a revision of Brig. Gen. George V. Fagan's book on the history of the Academy. This was followed by the election of officers, reelection of the members of the board whose term expires in 2006, and the reelection of the Executive Committee. Treasurer Jock Schwank gave the financial report. The consideration of several very significant new business items followed. The first was the adoption of new Friends' policies that had been drawn up by the Executive Committee. The most significant of these was the change in the title of donors to The Friends from "members" to "patrons." The Board also adopted a policy for the disposition of the Yudkin bequest.

Col. Dick Rauschkolb, USAF (Ret), briefed on current activities and challenges that face the Association of Graduates. Finally, Dr. Ed Scott, Director of Academy Libraries, who was also representing the Dean of Faculty, summarized some of the issues facing the Library including the probability of decreased funding. The meeting then adjourned for the annual luncheon.

Once again there was a very fine turnout for the luncheon. This year's speaker, Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. John F. Regni, gave a very informative and well-received talk on both the broad issues facing the Academy and the place of the Library in particular. Following his remarks, General Clark presented General Regni with a copy of *The Genesis of Flight*. After lunch, copies of General Fagan's *Air Force Academy Heritage: The Early Years* were available for purchase by those attending the luncheon but unfortunately General Fagan was not available to sign the books. Nonetheless, it was a very memorable and pleasant occasion. The next meeting of the Board of Directors and annual luncheon will be May 15, 2007 and will commemorate the 20th anniversary of The Friends. This will certainly be a significant occasion and you are urged to plan now to attend this very special event.

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## USAFA GRADS TEAM WITH THE FRIENDS ON HERITAGE PROJECT



Graduate War Memorial Wall

Since early 2006 a team of four USAFA graduates has been immersed in the painstaking work involved in a multi-year heritage project supported by The Friends of The Academy Library. Team members are Jock Schwank, '60 (Friends' Treasurer); Andi Biancur, '60; Dick Sexton, '60; and Dick Coppock, '61. Their goal is to gather all of the material that deals with the lives of the 167 Air Force Academy graduates, spanning the classes of 1959 through 2001, whose names are inscribed on the Academy's Graduate War Memorial Wall. The first USAFA graduate combat death occurred on October 24, 1964 (Valmore W. Bourque, '60); the most recent took place on May 30, 2005 (Derek M. Argel, '01 and

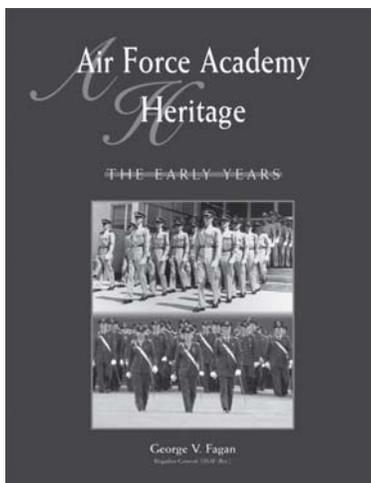
Jeremy J. Fresques, '01).

Building on the original work accomplished by Doug Johnson, Chief, Systems Management Office, McDermott Library, the team has already collected, scanned, electronically filed, and indexed more than 4,000 written and photographic documents on the honored graduates. The expectation is that when the team completes its work there will be in excess of 16,000 pages of documents. As there is no central location for information about these graduates nor is the existing information readily accessible, it has taken exceptional cooperation from the staffs of the Academy's Association of Graduates and the McDermott Library to make the

project a reality.

The team will establish procedures for updating the files as more information on these special graduates is acquired and as the names of other graduates are added to the War Memorial Wall. Ultimately, the material will be available electronically through The Friends' web site and in hard copy in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Library where it will be available for study and reflection by members of the Cadet Wing, graduates, and researchers interested in the lives of those holding a place of honor on the War Memorial Wall. The Friends believe this project will have a lasting impact for decades to come - indeed as long as the Academy exists.

## COMPLETION OF PUBLICATION *AIR FORCE ACADEMY HERITAGE: THE EARLY YEARS*



As noted in a previous newsletter, the members of the Executive Committee of The Friends recognized

the value of making a history of the legislative origins, establishment, and early operation of the Air Force Academy more widely available. At the urging of the members of the committee, retired Brig. Gen. George V. Fagan authorized The Friends to republish portions of his book, *The Air Force Academy: An Illustrated History*. First published in 1988, the volume was out of print. General Fagan, a member of the Academy's original cadre, a past permanent professor of the Department of History, and a former director of the Academy Library, generously transferred copyright and royalty rights on the manuscript to The Friends. In addition to his own personal recollections, General Fagan had

researched extensive series of official documents, oral histories, and photographs in writing his history. Many of those sources are housed within the Clark Special Collections Branch of the McDermott Library. The republished portion is a comprehensive, scholarly history of the genesis of the Academy and the first ten years of its operation. Since its publication in May 2006, The Friends have received numerous favorable comments on the scope and content of the book. *Air Force Academy Heritage: The Early Years* is available for purchase through book stores and from Fulcrum Publishing, 4690 Table Mountain Parkway, Suite 100, Golden, CO 80403.

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## **IN MEMORIAM: BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT F. McDERMOTT, USAF FIRST PERMANENT DEAN OF THE FACULTY, US AIR FORCE ACADEMY**

Retired Brig. Gen. Robert F. McDermott, the first permanent professor and first permanent Dean of the Faculty at the US Air Force Academy, died on August 28, 2006.

Appointed the first permanent professor at the Air Force Academy in 1957, General McDermott subsequently was named first permanent Dean of the Faculty and served in that position from 1959 to 1968. A visionary thinker and decisive

leader, he directed the successful effort to win academic accreditation for the Academy before the first class graduated in 1959. For his significant innovations in Air Force Academy education programs, many of which were later adopted by West Point and Annapolis, he was honored as “the father of modern military education.” In recognition of his singular place in Air Force Academy history, the cadet Library was named in his honor in 2003.



*Brig. Gen. Robert F. McDermott, USAF*

### **THE FRIENDS' HONOR MEMORIAL PROGRAM: PERPETUAL RECOGNITION FROM COMMEMORATIVE DONATIONS**

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library offers an attractive program for those who would like to ensure perpetual recognition for individuals, organizations, or groups (e.g., an aircrew). Honorees need not be military or deceased in order to be commemorated with an Honor Certificate. To date more than 1,000 individuals, units, and organizations

have been recognized in this way. Among the honorees are veterans who have served in the nation's wars; those who have served the nation, the Air Force, or the Academy in other ways; and Academy cadets, graduates, other service personnel, and family members.

For donations totaling \$50 or more, a handsome certificate will be prepared

and placed in an Honor Book maintained by The Friends and prominently displayed in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the McDermott Library. The Honor Books are readily accessible to cadets and visitors. Additional information about the Honor Memorial program may be requested on The Friends' flyer enclosed in this newsletter.

### **BIOGRAPHY OF “THE FATHER OF THE ACADEMY” COMMISSIONED BY THE FRIENDS**

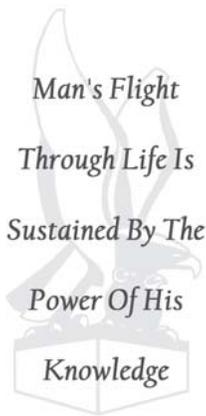


*Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, USAF*

The members of the board of directors of The Friends have recognized the need for the publication of a full length, illustrated biography of the Academy's first superintendent, Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon. In 2004, the secretary of the Air Force officially designated General Harmon as “The Father of the Academy.” Drawn from the rich collection of official archives, oral histories, and Harmon family papers housed within the Library's Special Collections Branch, the biography will chronicle General Harmon's life and his contributions to the legislative origins,

establishment, and early operation of the Academy.

Dr. Phillip S. Meilinger, a retired Air Force colonel, has been commissioned by The Friends to write the Harmon biography. Dr. Meilinger is a 1970 graduate of the Academy, a command pilot, the author of the definitive biography of Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, and an internationally recognized authority on military history and strategy. Scheduled for publication in 2009, this important biography will augment the institutional history of the Academy significantly.



## UPDATE FROM THE McDERMOTT LIBRARY

The McDermott Library has extended its hours on weekdays because of the new cadet class schedule. The Library is now open from 7AM through 10:45PM. Special Collections hours remain Monday through Friday, 7:30AM through 4:30PM. There are many new faces in Acquisitions, Circulation, and Reference. For help finding history and humanities books, look for Joe Barry. Lauren McGrogan is the new librarian specialist for life sciences. Unfortunately access to the Library is still restricted (see separate article).

The McDermott Library received 1,482 gift books between March and September, 2006. During the same period, Special Collections received the papers of Lt. Gen. P. K. Carlton and a complete set of the children's books written by Maj. Hap Arnold. Additionally, the Library has been designated a repository for the 7th Bomb Group Historical Foundation, the 14th Air Force Association, the 44th Bomb Group, and Vietnam MISTY veterans (F-100 forward air controllers). Thank you to the Friends for adding Mrs. Harmon's letters to the Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon collection, as well as purchasing the collection of WWII pilot Lt. Peter Swereda.

## VISITING THE CADET AREA AND McDERMOTT LIBRARY

Although visitors are now allowed free entry at both the North and South Gates, visitors to the cadet area are still restricted. **DoD cardholding visitors** who are not assigned to an agency within the cadet area will be issued a 1-day Temporary (T) or Visitor (V) badge and 1-day parking pass in exchange for a driver's license at the cadet entry gates near Sijan Hall and the Fieldhouse. These visitors do not require sponsorship but will be asked the nature of their business. A V-badge is issued to an individual making a delivery, dental appointment, or other business not requiring building access, while Library visitors are usually issued a T-badge. DoD cardholders may not escort non-DoD cardholding visitors. **Non-DoD cardholding visitors** must be sponsored into the cadet area either by prior phone call to Charlie-2 (333-0576), or by sponsor's presence at the entry gate.

Library staff regrets the difficulty of access, but is always delighted to escort a Friend of the Library or non-DOD cardholding visitors. Please call ahead to Mary Elizabeth Ruwell at (719) 333-4674 or Ed Scott at 333-2590. They can meet visitors at the North Gate parking lot, the Visitors Center or the Officers Club. Because of security concerns, groups larger than five must make arrangements at least two weeks in advance of their visit.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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