

## **FLAG & GENERAL OFFICERS: TFGON Newsletter: Miscellaneous Matters & Info.: 7 DEC**

Fellow Flag & General Officers:

TFGON continues to make solid and indeed excellent progress on all fronts with all our various programs and projects. This newsletter is intended to bring you up to date on some of them, and also to alert you to several new "items of interest"----- including our efforts to provide a systemic whereby retired flag and general officers can attend meetings at the Pentagon without having to have an escort while in the building----Further details below on this and several other topics.

TFGON continues in our role as the generally accepted communications center for retired flag and general officers of all 5 branches of service---- this comms link bonding us all together grows with each passing month and that's GREAT, because providing an ability for us to communicate with each other was one of the original purposes for which TFGON was founded some 21 years ago. It means that now all retired flag and general officers have a comms system and medium to let ALL flag and general officers know about events and issues of mutual interest. And now it's time once again to get some new portions of that word out on a broad range of matters and events that have arrived at TFGON HQ and need to be circulated to our membership so that we are all up-to-speed on these matters. That information follows below:

## **Miscellaneous Matters & Info.!!**

**1. TFGON Membership Reaches 3800 members, over 80% of all living Flag and General Officers, and Continues to Grow**

**2. TFGON's TSA PreCheck Program Status As Of 25 NOV: UPDATE**

**3. TO REMIND---TFGON Semi-Annual Year-end Fundraising Drive Began 1 DEC-----Corporate Donations Now Also Encouraged To Support Admiral McGrail Internship Program**

**4. Retired Flag & General Officer Access to Pentagon Meetings WITHOUT an Escort NEW PROGRAM**

**5. New Program Provides an Enlisted Path to a Medical Degree via Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences [USUHS]**

**6. OP-ED by Vice Admiral Doug Crowder, U.S. Navy [Ret.] regarding Flag & General Officer Endorsement of Presidential Candidates---- Published in NOV 2015 Naval Institute PROCEEDINGS**

**7. Pearl Harbor Remembrance - 2015**

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**1. TFGON Membership Reaches 3800 members, over 80% of all living Flag and General Officers, and Continues to Grow:** We're pleased to advise you that TFGON has reached another milestone in the success of our organization as we just passed the 3800 member mark. Plus we expect that growth to continue and accelerate in 2016, as our TFGON Overview Document is now being included in the Flag & General Officer Transition Courses of all 5 branches of service and that will ensure all retiring Flag and General Officers are aware of TFGON's program to circulate their resume to each of our 3800 members, thus ensuring that the entire Flag & General Officer Corps is aware of their availability in the civilian job market. We've also made arrangements to have our Overview Document shared with all the newly selected O-7's attending CAPSTONE. This will ensure that ALL flag and general officers are fully aware of TFGON and our programs and projects at the beginning of their Flag/General Officer service. All GREAT PROGRESS. We've attached the most recent version of our TFGON Overview Document so you are aware of it's content---- feel free to share this document with any other flag and general officers you know, as well as your corporate HR Dept or Association/Organization Boards of Directors so they are fully aware of who we are and what we do. As the old saying goes, "hard to tell the players without a program".

**2. TFGON's TSA PreCheck Program Status As Of**

**25 NOV: UPDATE** The most recent submission to TSA, representing those who applied between 15 NOV - 30 NOV and those who submitted a change in Retired DOD ID Card number, has now been submitted to TSA and approved, so those of you in that category are now "good to go". So when flying one of the 12 airlines that participate in PreCheck, be sure to add your Known Traveler Number [i.e. the number you sent us from your DOD Retired ID Card] to your airline profile, your reservation request, your frequent flyer profile, any discount airline websites, and your travel agent if you use one. Be aware that we are already receiving new applicants for the next TSA submission which

we will transmit 1 JAN 2016. If you want to be included, send an e-mail to [TFGONAdmin@TFGON.org](mailto:TFGONAdmin@TFGON.org) and put TSA PreCheck in the subject line, and in the body, indicate you are volunteering for the program and send us your full name, date of birth, rank and branch of service, and the DOD Retired ID Card Number from the face of your ID Card [if your card was issued in 2010 or before, this is your SSN].

**3. TO REMIND---TFGON Semi-Annual Year-end Fundraising Drive to Begin 1 DEC-----Corporate Donations Now Also Encouraged To Support Admiral McGrail Internship Program:** TFGON's Semi-Annual Fundraising Drive began 1 DEC and in discussing the details at this years Annual Board Meeting on 23 OCT, it was recommended that we add an appeal for corporate donations in support of our Admiral McGrail Scholars Internship Program. **We Need Your Help to make this work!!** This is a legitimate tax-deductible corporate expense that will be used 100% to fund and support our McGrail Scholars Military Veteran Interns, a program that has now been in operation for five years and to date has been 100% funded by donations from the Rear Admiral James J. Carey Foundation [ [www.AdmiralCareyFoundation.org](http://www.AdmiralCareyFoundation.org) ]. Given TFGON's War Veterans designation by the IRS as a 501.c.19 War Veterans Organization, the McGrail Scholars is our primary military veterans support effort and has played a strong role in providing the experience and linkages needed by the participating military veterans to "jump start" their transition from active duty to the civilian work force. Full details and photos/bios of McGrail Scholars Graduates at [www.FlagAndGeneralOfficersNetwork.org/mcgrail.html](http://www.FlagAndGeneralOfficersNetwork.org/mcgrail.html) The number of intern scholars in each class is totally determined by the funds available, and thus adding corporate donations in support of this program could significantly increase our ability to include more military veterans in addition to the 2-3 each year which our current funding dictates. We request that each TFGON member take the few minutes it will take to contact your corporate charitable donations folks and discuss with them what TFGON would need to do to include the TFGON Admiral McGrail Scholars as a part of their annual corporate giving programs. Also be aware that for those of you who serve as officers of or on military or veterans organization or association boards or foundation charities, given TFGON's 501.c.19 tax-deductible status, our Admiral McGrail Scholars Internship Program is also a legitimate program for them to donate to in support of these young war veterans. Any ?'s on the tax-deductible status of any of this, just send an e-mail to [TFGONAdmin@TFGON.org](mailto:TFGONAdmin@TFGON.org) with Admiral McGrail Scholars Donations in the subject line and we will get back to you. And for details on the McGrail

Scholars Internships and program details, feel free to contact TFGON's Admiral McGrail Scholars Administrators, Major General Donna Barbisch, U.S. Army [Ret.] or Rear Admiral Don Loren, U.S. Navy [Ret.] at [db@DonnaBarbisch.com](mailto:db@DonnaBarbisch.com) or [dploren74@aol.com](mailto:dploren74@aol.com) We included further details on this effort in our December 1st Semi-Annual Fundraising Program message to all TFGON members.

If you have not yet sent your own personal donation, request you do so now in support of all these programs that benefit your Fellow Warriors. And on behalf of all of us, MANY THANKS!!!!

#### **4. Retired Flag & General Officer Access to Pentagon Meetings**

**WITHOUT an Escort---NEW PROGRAM:** This has been a major goal of TFGON almost since our founding, as each of us who retired from Pentagon jobs had full access without escort up to our day of retirement, and then the day after we were required to have an escort. Many of the retired flag/general officers corps have complained about this "visible loss of trust" that thrust them into this status in spite of their 30+ years of honorable service and "earned status" as Flag or General Officers. We began this effort several years ago and feel we have finally reached a solution whereby we have a systemic that will make this a reality. We still have another few weeks to finalize the process, but we are now confident that we will be announcing this process and outlining the requirements for all retired flag and general officers who seek to be included within the next week to 10 days. We will be sponsored for this program by the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy. MAJOR PROGRESS, in our opinion. More on this later!!!

#### **5. New Program Provides an Enlisted Path to a Medical Degree via Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences [USUHS:**

**America's Medical School]** TFGON has learned of this relatively new program at USUHS that provides a pathway for qualified enlisted personnel to pursue a medical degree while still on active duty in the military. Several personnel have already been accepted into the program and are performing exceptionally well, and given the significant extent which almost all Flag & General Officers continue to be involved in military and veterans matters, we felt you would want to be aware of this tremendous opportunity should you run across young enlisted men or women who fit the requirements and might want to apply. The Program is officially titled Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program [EMDP2] and full details, including a detailed FAQ section, are on the website at [www.USUHS.edu/EMDP2](http://www.USUHS.edu/EMDP2) For any flag or

general officers having further questions, you can contact the Program Director, Althea Green Dixon, a retired Command Sergeant Major, via phone on her direct line: [301-295-3198](tel:301-295-3198) or via e-mail at [althea.green-dixon@usuhs.edu](mailto:althea.green-dixon@usuhs.edu) This appears to be a truly exceptional program and tremendous opportunity and a great positive step for military medicine.

**6. OP-ED by Vice Admiral Doug Crowder, U.S. Navy [Ret.] regarding Flag & General Officer Endorsement of Presidential Candidates----**

**Published in NOV 2015 Naval Institute PROCEEDINGS:** One of our Fellow TFGON Members, Vice Admiral Doug Crowder, U. S. Navy [Ret.] recently wrote an OP-ED advocating Flag and General Officers not participate in endorsing presidential candidates using their retired military rank. His article was published in the Naval Institute's PROCEEDINGS Magazine November Issue [Page 10] and is attached hereto for your review. One of TFGON's purposes has been to provide a forum where we can communicate with each other and share ideas and information and projects and events, and thus we are sharing this article with you. This relates to a matter of opinion or policy on which TFGON does not have any position, and we fully realize that there will be some of you that agree with Admiral Crowder and others that will not. Those wishing to engage in dialogue with him on this topic may reach him at his e-mail address: [crowderwd@aol.com](mailto:crowderwd@aol.com)

**7. Pearl Harbor Remembrance - 2015:** Today is the 74th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the start of World War II combat involvement for America. We ask all to pause today to remember the brave men and women of our armed forces who died that day, along with the innocent civilians of Hawaii who were also killed. And our thousands of wounded. All awoke to a quiet peaceful Sunday morning, and over 2,000 never again saw another sunrise or felt the warmth of a hug and affection from their loved ones and families. Today we remember all of them and are thankful for the millions of American men and women who have followed their example of military service and answered our nation's call to duty. Today thousands of these later generations are on duty all around the world, on watch or standing a post so that our nation might remain free. We continue to salute them, just as today we again salute those on duty on December 7th, 1941. All gave some; some gave all.

This now completes the DEC 7th Issue of our TFGON Newsletter. We hope you find the information useful and helpful to you as Military Flag & General Officers. Feel free to share this message with any fellow Flag & General Officers that you know. The more we share this information, the

better informed we all will be and the more we can be of help to each other as Fellow Warriors.

With all good wishes,

Jim Carey

Rear Admiral [Ret.] James J. Carey, National Chairman  
THE FLAG & GENERAL OFFICERS' NETWORK  
[www.TFGON.org](http://www.TFGON.org)

An Official 501.c.19 War Veterans Organization!!!  
Over 3800 U.S. Armed Forces Flag & General Officers  
Still Serving After A Lifetime of Service To America!!!