

CCA Team,

We hope this email finds everyone doing well; at least as well as can be expected given COVID 19, and the associated restrictions.

During the week of January 11th, we held a series of meetings at Joint Base Lewis/McChord. Special Tactics Officer Col Travis Woodworth (LM 884) hosted us at the 5th ASOG where he proudly Commands our TACP brothers.

We travelled on the 11th and met for dinner, so no official notes, except to say pizza was eaten, drinks were had, and tall stories were told. All true of course.

On Tuesday the 12th, the CCA BOD met to review CCA business for 2020, and create a strategy for 2021:

- All board members were present, either physically or on Zoom.
- We initially reviewed the Goals for 2020, as per below
 - Review and rewrite CCA bylaws
 - Recruit 100 new members (during our December members meeting I incorrectly expressed the goal was 200 new members; I upped the ante after we met our initial goal of 100 new members in early summer, but the original goal was 100)
 - Raise \$200K
- Our performance against these Goals was:
 - CCA bylaws rewritten (achieved)
 - 165 new members (achieved)
 - \$72K raised (not achieved)
- Next, we held elections for the principal board positions:
 - President: Kyle Stanbro nominated Mike Lamonica, it was seconded, and the board voted unanimously for Mike as the President
 - Vice President: Mike Lamonica nominated Mike West, it was seconded, and the board voted unanimously for Mike as the Vice President
 - Treasurer: Mark Nevatt nominated Bernie Oder, it was seconded, and the board voted unanimously for Bernie as the Treasurer
 - Secretary: Mike West nominated Mark Nevatt, it was seconded, and the board voted unanimously for Mark as the Secretary
- The board then shifted the conversation to fund-raising. Given we fell short of our goal in 2020, we felt this should be a top priority.
 - In November, Eric Hohman (LM 1058) reached out to the board to discuss a fund-raising strategy. Kyle Stanbro worked with Eric to understand the concept.
 - Kyle led the board through a discussion about how to leverage partners with professional fund-raising experience and a track record of success.
 - The board met with Eric and David Guernsey to discuss a proactive approach to raise meaningful funds in 2021.
 - Although the board was initially intrigued, many of us still had questions, so we asked David to put together a conop and meet again later in the week.
 - In the meantime, the board spent more time discussing the merits of David's initial points
 - During the second meeting David provided a quality concept of operations and answered many critical questions from the board. Equally important, he instilled confidence in the board members.
 - The board is going to host another internal meeting this month to discuss further.

- Our fundraising strategy discussion led us into dialogue about how we manage our money.
 - Although we do a good job of accounting for dollars committed and raising money to meet the demands of any given year, we do not optimize our funds.
 - Most of our money is maintained out of checking/savings accounts.
 - We feel there is value in creating a long-term investment strategy; so we will.
- We then focused on how we can better market the things the CCA does for our community. We believe the association does many good things, but the word does not get out, especially to our CCT/STO teammates in the units.
 - Mark Nevatt volunteered to video interview with past Mark Forester scholarship recipients
 - John Bringolf is going to post them to the landing page for the CCA website, so when people access the website, they will see/hear firsthand accounts of some of the things the association has done for its members and families
 - We believe we will be able to expand this beyond our scholarship awardees, to include many of the other people you so generously help throughout the year
 - Additionally, we will create a 2020 trifold that explains who we are and what we do; Mark Nevatt will also lead this effort.
 - We did this at the end of 2019, and it told a great story; we feel that COVID19 hampered our ability to get them into the squadrons and team rooms.
 - In the units we were able to get them into, we showed good recruiting results.
 - These will also help us tell our story in our fund-raising endeavors.
- Next, we discussed the Combat Control Foundation.
 - The initial paperwork for this was filed in the Fall of 2018 by Mickey Wright (LM 216); Bernie Oder (LM 75) then picked it up and ran with it.
 - The goal was to have a 501c3 to partner with the CCA 501c19 (veteran's organization) for fund raising.
 - Although this has been successful for us in the recent past, the board feels it is time to formalize the distinction between the Combat Control Association, and Combat Control Foundation.
 - The goal is to provide clarity to our members, our customers, and our donors.
 - As you would imagine there are legalities we must adhere to, so we feel codifying the different organizations and the relationship between the two is a critical task.
 - We want to be clear; Bernie has sought formal legal and accounting counsel to ensure all of our actions are above board. We just want to formalize it, rather than continue forward with tribal knowledge.
 - Mike West will lead us through this initiative in 2021.
- After a full day of rigorous discussions, we landed on these strategic goals for 2021:
 - Create an investment strategy
 - Redefine the Combat Control Foundation
 - Recruit 100 new members
 - Create a strategy to raise \$200K in 2021

On Wednesday the 13th, leaders from the Combat Control, Pararescue, TACP, and Grey Beret associations/foundations met for our second annual AFSPECWAR Coalition gathering.

- In January 2020, we met at Lackland AFB to get an orientation to AFSPECWAR and discuss how we could work together to support each other and our teammates in the units.
 - This meeting was a great success, and we walked away informed, and with verbal agreements on how to support each other.

- This year, our goal was to get an update on AFSPECWAR, and more clearly codify our relationship, all in the name of taking care of our members and teammates.
- Here is a list of those who were present:
 - TACP Association: President, Timothy “Chachi” Pachasa
 - TACP Foundation: Executive Director, Marcus Mader
 - PJ Association: President, Bill Watson
 - PJ Foundation: Executive Director, Ron Lennis
Board Member, Tony Negron
 - Grey Beret Association: President, Pete Morris
Member, Brady Armistead
 - CCA/CCF: The entire Board of Directors
- We first met with the Command Chiefs from the 24 SOW at Hurlburt, and AFSPECWAR training wing at Lackland
 - CMSgt Chris Grove (LM 1096), and CMSgt Todd Popovic (PJA member) met us via Zoom
 - Todd provided updates on training
 - Chris provided updates on what is happening in the operational Special Tactics units
 - This was productive, as it provided insight into how the men are training, and deploying together
- We then met with the Career Field Functional Managers (CFM) out of the Pentagon for PJ, TACP, Strategic Reconnaissance, and CCT
 - CMSgt Steve Cox - Strategic Reconnaissance, CMSgt Konrad Schwinn - PJ, CMSgt Ken Blakeney - TACP, and CMSgt Brad Lentz - CCT (LM 1616) attended
 - During this call, we spent 2 hours understanding the programmatic side of SPECWAR, and some of the strategic way forward
 - This was another great meeting where we were able to get insight.
 - Although AFSPECWAR is a solid program, there are still many challenges, but we have the right leaders in the Wings, units and at the Pentagon addressing the challenges and planning for the future.
- Wednesday afternoon the AFSPECWAR Coalition leaders discussed the successes and challenges in our individual organizations and crafted a strawman agenda for Thursday’s meetings.

On Thursday the 14th, AFSPECWAR Coalition leaders met to discuss specifically what we could do to continue supporting each other, and further codify our relationship. Here is what we came up with:

- Formalize what we call ourselves: AFSPECWAR Coalition is what we came up with
 - What is this? An organization of elected leaders from the individual associations/foundations, chartered to work together for the betterment of our members and communities
 - What this is not: This is not a replacement for each of our individual organizations; there are no plans to dissolve any of our organizations, or to force us all into one large organization
 - We will promote each other’s organizations when working with active duty, guard, and reserve units to aid in recruiting for those organizations, and advertising the great things we each do
- Potentially create an AFSPECWAR Foundation (501c3): The goal of this organization would be a place for each association to push funds for joint ventures.

- The case study discussed was, if a tragedy happened with members from each career field, we could pool resources under this foundation to more seamlessly support the units and families, and show a unified front
- Another case study was, if we were to host a joint fund-raising event, i.e. a golf tournament, we could use this single entity to make it easier for donors
- There is a lot to work through on this concept, but it garnered lots of favor with those who participated in the discussions
 - What body would formally govern this Foundation
 - Creating a bank acct to house the funds
 - Bylaws
 - Etc...
- Increased formal communications with AFSPECWAR Coalition leaders
 - We will host quarterly Zoom meetings, and continue with our annual gathering in January
 - The purpose is to discuss progress on joint initiatives, and discuss successes/challenges of the individual organizations
 - We all agree that normalizing communications, and sharing ideas will make us better at the individual organization level, and enable us to work more seamlessly together, especially when tragedy arises
 - We plan to host association-wide toasts via Zoom to those who have fallen in service our country on the anniversary of their sacrifice (we have lots to do here to ensure we have a calendar that accurately shows when those hallowed days are)
 - Conceptually, on the anniversary of one of our fallen, we will have a Zoom session set up. Anyone from any of the associations or foundations can attend, and toast our teammate, and tell stories about him
 - We discussed creating a joint video to discuss each of our organizations, to advertise what we do, and support our independent recruiting efforts
 - We committed to sharing the list of organizations that we partner with to take care of our people. Things like which orgs help us with VA issues, which orgs help our members with resiliency, etc...; this will broaden each organization's list of resources to reach out to in order to better take care of our members.
- Formalize communications with AFSPECWAR Coalition leaders, the leaders of our Wings (24 SOW and AFSPECWAR Tng Wing), and our CFMs at the Pentagon
 - The goal is to understand how we can best support our members on active duty, guard, and reserve status
 - We will also use this as a forum to help us with recruiting members for the Associations, or support for our Foundations
 - Ask for dedicated points of contacts in the units, so we can plug into them, and they know how to plug into us
- CCA's map locator was a point of discussion, John Bringolf is looking into how we can create a tool that allows us to do this jointly, or for the other associations to create similar capabilities
 - There is a lot to work through here from a technical perspective
 - Another topic that was discussed was the need for members to buy off on this concept, as personal contact information is exposed
 - To be clear the joint map is a concept and has not been agreed to; it is a concept, and we will formally ask for your feedback. No action is being taken without buy in
- Other topics we did not have time to deep dive:

- Creating a joint transition program for our teammates who are separating from active duty, guard, and reserve status
- Hosting booths together at major conferences such as
 - Air Force Association
 - WEPTAC
 - SOFIC

As you can see, we covered lots of ground in the three days we spent at Joint Base Lewis/McChord. The members of this board are focused on managing CCA/CCF in the manner that you expect. When we spend money to travel, we recognize we need to get the most out of it. We think we did that on this trip.

Although COVID19 has made it difficult for many this year, we feel we are postured to continue our growth trajectory in 2021, and most importantly support our members the way they deserve to be supported.

Don't forget, we have the Las Vegas reunion coming up April 22nd thru 24th, if you have not signed up yet, here is the link, <https://cctreunionlasvegas.com/>. We plan to host a member's meeting during the reunion, Joe O'Keefe (LM 481) is working on the schedule. For those attending, we look forward to seeing you there. For those not able to attend, we will send out a Zoom link for the members meeting.

Respectfully,
CCA BOD