Dear MIT Military Community:

We are pleased to offer you the inaugural issue of the MIT Military Alumni/ae Association Newsletter. Enclosed you will find reflections on the historic first steps for our organization. In the months preceding and following its formation as an Affinity Group in March of 2009, MITMAA has brought together alumni volunteers in an effort to strengthen and link MIT’s military population.

Over the past half year, MITMAA has advocated for MIT’s full participation in the new GI Bill’s “Yellow Ribbon Program,” sponsored a reception at the 2009 Commissioning Ceremony featuring GEN Petraeus, published an innovative group website (http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/mitmaa), created a military mentorship program for Cadets, Midshipmen and young officers, pushed for expanded use of MIT OpenCourseWare in the military, endeavored to update the Lobby 10 War Memorial, donated gold officer bars to every 1/c ROTC student, and more. MITMAA has attracted over 80 members and raised over $1700 in dues revenue.

Existing programs and initiatives to support MIT’s “commitment to service” are being expanded daily while new efforts take hold. I want to issue a special thanks to the founding team for making this possible: Geoff Abbot ’82, Cynthia Bedell ’80, Larry Castro ’64, David Gerber ’84, Andy Hill ’05, Murphey Johnson ’89, Curt Jones ’89, Fran Marrone, Leo McGonagle, Al Mink ’78, Judy Schuler ’96, Ashok Sivakumar ’02, Mike Stollenwerk ’95, Frank Tapparo ’60, Mike Telson ’67, Chris Warack ’85, Steve Waller ’73, Neil Woodward ’84, and Mike Zimmerman ’61.

M. Brendan McCord, President, MIT Military Alumni/ae Association

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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**SEPTEMBER 2009**

Congratulations to the new ENS/2LTs:

**Air Force:** Paul Estrada, Rachel Kolesnikov-Lindsey, Eric Larson, Erik Greenberg

**Army:** Vikram Mittal, Stephen Petraeus, Gregory Wellman

**Navy:** Vanessa Esch, Matthew Petersen, Juliana Rotter, Thomas Schaefer

**Marine Corps:** Stephen Toth

On June 5, 2009, twelve MIT graduates were commissioned as ENS/2LTs by General David Petraeus. Stephen Petraeus ’09 was among those receiving the Oath of Office. The event also kicked off our new group, as MITMAA sponsored the reception and donated a custom cake from Mike’s Pastry. More than 50 alumni attended through MITMAA, including two “Red Coats,” Bill Cavanaugh ’51 and Herbert Brun ’54 along with wife Debbie.

General Petraeus had this to say to the guests: “It is great indeed to be sharing this day with the members of the new MIT Military Alumni/ae Association. Your accomplishments as individuals in uniform are an impressive trail of accomplishment and achievement over the decades. The new group of graduates being commissioned this evening stand on the shoulders of those who passed through the program before them and because of what you did they stand very tall indeed.”
MIT IS “MIA” ON NEW GI BILL

Senator Jim Webb (D-Virginia) persuaded Congress to overhaul our nation’s “GI Bill” program, which helps military veterans go to college after serving their nation. Originally enacted during World War II with the purpose of allowing “vets to go Harvard” if they could get accepted, the program has seen its benefits decline in real terms over the years to no longer covering even most state college tuition costs.

Under the new GI Bill, the federal government now pays a variable housing allowance to participating veterans who served substantially since September 11, 2001. The program also reimburses veterans for any college tuition and fees up to the amount charged by the most expensive state college for “in-state” tuition. And then there is the “Yellow Ribbon Program.” Under that new initiative, the federal government will match private colleges dollar for dollar in any reduction to an eligible veteran’s tuition bill that exceeds the highest in-state tuition charged in that state by a state college. So if the highest Massachusetts state college in-state tuition and fee cost was ~$20,000 per year, and MIT’s tuition was ~$40,000 per year, if MIT agreed to lower tuition by up to $10,000, the federal government would match that reduction.

According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, over 11,000 colleges are participating in the yellow ribbon program, including Harvard, Columbia, and Georgetown. But not MIT. Some months ago the MITMAA board of directors unanimously voted to ask MIT President Susan Hockfield to take notice of the new GI Bill and commit MIT to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program in at least some fashion. Unfortunately, despite the relatively few qualifying veterans likely to be accepted to MIT this year, President Hockfield rejected any participation at all in this important national program on apparently ideological grounds, stating that all MIT financial aid is need-based.

MIT’s outright rejection of the new GI Bill is disturbing given the nation’s military and national security investment in MIT over the past century. The decision does not reflect well upon the Institute and could give rise to Congressional animus in the future. MITMAA remains committed to persuading MIT to recognize the importance of participating in the new GI Bill in at least some fashion before the Fall 2010 semester.

- Mike Stollenwerk, Sloan MBA ’95, Lt. Col., US Army, Ret., MITMAA Director

THE MILITARY AND OPENCOURSEWARE

After the MIT community itself, the US military is the second largest user group of MIT’s OpenCourseWare technology. OCW is a web-based publication of virtually all MIT course content, which is open and available to the world. It contains 15,000+ lecture notes, 9,000+ problem sets and 900+ exams, with 630 translations into five languages. Since its launch, military (*.mil) domains have accessed OCW over 150,000 times.

http://ocw.mit.edu

OpenCourseWare is one of MIT’s most important new services, and its continued use in the military should be encouraged. MITMAA is pursuing numerous efforts to that end. Experience OCW at ocw.mit.edu or contact President Brendan McCord at mbrendan@alum.mit.edu to learn more.

MITMAA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The 2008 CALL TO ACTION survey indicated the highest level of support for mentorship within MITMAA. In response, we built a mentorship program for young officers, ROTC students, current and former military members and civilians, and anyone else in the MITMAA network.

Some active duty service members currently have mentors through their military chain of command, but the MITMAA program will offer a more wide-range look at all aspects of the career post-MIT.

MITMAA Director and Army Colonel Cynthia Bedell is the Chair of the Mentorship Program. Under her leadership, several pairings have already been made. If you are interested in participating or want to learn more, contact Cynthia at cynthia.bedell@us.army.mil or visit the MITMAA home page.

Now accepting mentors and mentees!
Dr. Dean Calcagni, '75/Army, writes: After 26 years on Active Duty, I retired from the Army three years ago. I had worked part-time as an attending staff anesthesiologist at Walter Reed. My main job, however, was serving as the Deputy Director of the Army’s Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC). After leaving the Army, I joined Foster-Miller, an engineering development company founded 50 years ago by 3 guys out of the Mechanical Engineering Department at MIT. I was their Director of Medical and Life Sciences Applications. At a Holiday Party, I sat with 3 other employees who were from the MIT Class of 1976 — Rich Wiesman, Joe Tavormina and Steve Edelson. It was interesting that the four of us had each married a Simmons College alumna from their Class of 1976. A few months ago I joined the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, where I am the Director of Strategic Planning for the Biomedicine Business Area.

LT Andy Hill, '05/Navy, writes: May was a big month for my (brand new) family! I wrapped up Advanced Helicopter Training in late April, and on 8 May, my then-fiancée Dr. Christina Greene ’05 pinned on my Navy “Wings of Gold” in Milton, FL. Next, we rushed out to Los Angeles where she received her M.D. from the University of Southern California’s Keck School of Medicine on 17 May. After my brief return to out-process from NAS Whiting Field, we were married on 23 May in Covina, CA, thus completing her goal to marry a Naval Aviator and mine to marry a surgeon (we kid). Our impeccable scheduling left us just enough time for a brief honeymoon before I had to report for survival training and she had to report for her residency at L.A. County/USC Medical Center. Now I’m learning to fly the SH-60B at Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) 40 in Mayport, FL, and looking forward to heading west to NAS North Island in Coronado, CA early next year for my first sea tour.

RAD M (Ret.) Wayne E. Meyer ’47, who was known as the “Father of Aegis,” the Navy’s revolutionary air-defense weapon system, has died. He was 83. Commander Curt Jones ’89 will assume duties as the first Commanding Officer of the USS NEW YORK LPD-21 in the Fall of 2009. Commander Jeffrey Kim ’91 was inaugurated on March 28, 2009 as the Commanding Officer of the USS JOHN MCCAIN (DDG-56). CDR Kim is the second Korean-American naval officer to skipper an Aegis-equipped destroyer. Contact: ahill@alum.mit.edu.

Dynamic and passionate Engineering/Program Manager with more than 20 years of career progression in defense, systems engineering, space systems, and science and technology in the aerospace industry. Committed to delivering the highest standards of quality and service in the development of innovative technological concepts focused on the design of leading-edge satellite tracking devices (antennas). Participated in the Boeing joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program as the Chief Systems Engineer. Analyzed current JSF processes and found that coordination and collaboration were poor among the Integrated Product Teams (IPTs); government graded the office as in the RED. Improvements led to achieving government grade of GREEN (the best) within eight months, and millions of dollars were saved by applying specific performance requirements rather than blanket government specifications. Spent 22 years on active duty with the Navy as flyer and program manager. Interested in applying for senior management positions. Contact me at: mitaeroastro@yahoo.com or visit my website at: http://www.webportfolios.net/robertstruth

Air Force pilot Lt. David Dinan III ’65 was killed in the line of duty in March of 1969 in Laos, after he was forced to bail out of a F105 jet that had been hit by ground fire. His name was the last to be added to the War Memorial in Lobby 10. The Class of 1962 has been the sponsor of the Vietnam Memorial plaque in Building 10 since its inception and paid for the engraving. MITMAA is working with MIT staff to ensure that the Memorial is updated to include all conflicts since 1969. If you know of an MIT alum who was killed in the line of duty, please contact: Fran Marrone at franm@mit.edu.
MIT MILITARY ALUMNI/AE ASSOCIATION

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MIT MILITARY ALUMNI/AE ASSOCIATION

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to get involved with MITMAA! You can join MITMAA at the Alumni Leadership Conference on September 26 at noon (more information below), attend a MITMAA Board meeting and share ideas alongside 20+ alums at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA, become a mentor by contacting Cynthia Bedell at cynthia.bedell@us.army.mil, join a MITMAA committee and help plan an upcoming event in your area, write to MIT regarding the new GI Bill’s Yellow Ribbon Program, brainstorm ways to expand the military’s use of OpenCourseWare, or run for office in the next MITMAA election in early 2010. Volunteer efforts from people like you make this organization possible!

Stay tuned as we release details about our fall event in Washington, DC:

The Nuclear Energy Forum

Contact Ashok Sivakumar at ashok@alum.mit.edu to assist in coordination & planning.

2009 ALUMNI LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Mark Your Calendars for this year’s Alumni Leadership Conference (ALC) being held on September 25-26, 2009. ALC is the annual gathering of MIT volunteers, designed to bring fresh energy to your involvement with MIT and aid you in upcoming volunteer activities. The conference will feature training workshops, panel discussions, and updates from Institute representatives, as well as a host of networking sessions.

The cost to attend this year’s conference is $40, which includes all the content, meals and the Awards Gala Event. For information on discounted hotel reservations, visit ALC 2009 online at http://alum.mit.edu/alc.

As volunteers, you play a crucial role in MIT’s future success, and the Alumni Leadership Conference plays a crucial role in developing your leadership capabilities as a volunteer. We hope you’ll join us for this special two-day event.

Melissa Marquardt, melissam@mit.edu

MTMAA Officers and GEN Petraeus at Commissioning

MITMAA’s congratulatory cake, courtesy of Mike’s Pastry

MITMAA will be part of the ALC! Join us on September 26th at noon on the 3rd floor of the Stratton Student Center in room PDR #3. MITMAA volunteers will be on hand. We look forward to seeing you there!