



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: Your Supervisor

SUBJECT: Participation

TO: A New Lieutenant

Aside from the day-to-day activities associated with your Air Force specialty, there is another area that requires your attention: participation in unit activities. I believe that a healthy organization works hard together and plays hard together. Intramural athletics, organizational functions, and membership in the Officers' Club, company grade officers' council (CGOC), and professional associations related to your specialty are key areas in which you can improve the interpersonal relationships within your parent organization and the basewide officer corps.

Active participation in the functions of your parent organization allows you to see and be seen by the members of your organization in an informal setting. It enhances your mutual understanding and fosters a feeling of unity which strengthens the overall mission accomplishment capabilities of the organization.

Membership in the officers' club is one method of expanding your contacts with officers outside your unit. I am the first to admit that the "quality" of officers' clubs varies from extraordinarily good to extraordinarily poor. Nevertheless, the officers' club is your club and you have a professional responsibility to support it. If you are dissatisfied with its operation, decor, services, and facilities, don't cop out and resign your membership or fail to join initially. Be active and work for the changes you desire because as an officer it's as much your club as any other officer's!

The CGOC provides an ideal outlet for you to mix with your contemporaries who work in other Air Force specialties. It broadens your base and gives you some insight into what the rest of the Air Force is doing. It is an opportunity you shouldn't miss.

Participation in meetings, social functions, and seminars conducted by the professional associations related to your specialty is another avenue for career broadening and professional development. You can gain an appreciation for the other activities related to your job. You can also establish lasting personal and professional friendships.

The key word in this letter is participation. Get involved and stay involved. You would be amazed at how much business you can mix with pleasure.

  
Paul G. Patton, Colonel, USAF  
AN OLD LIEUTENANT