

## **The Start-Up of MainGate United**

As the local community prepared for the arrival of two additional F-16 squadrons to Holloman AFB, it became obvious that a new volunteer community organization was needed to serve as the single voice for relationships between Holloman and the local civilian community. A temporary task force, the TDY Task Force (TTF), was formed in early April to put together the Policies and Guidelines for the yet unnamed organization. The eleven members of the TDY Task Force were chosen out of the Committee of 50, Alamogordo Forum, Chamber of Commerce and Holloman AFB. They met numerous times over the next 5 weeks, finalizing their plan on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Much research was conducted by the TTF about similar defense community organizations that have been formed around the country. Direct discussions occurred with representatives from many of these groups and by-laws were obtained from several. About half are stand-alone 501c3 non-profit corporations while most of the remainder fall under their local Chambers of Commerce. The TTF recommended that MainGate United would initially be formed as a sub-committee under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce unanimously approved the plan on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The details of how MainGate United will be organized and operate will be presented at an Organizational Meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The process of signing up members, electing leaders and getting down to work will occur over the next two months culminating on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mark the following important dates on your calendar:

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| June 14 <sup>th</sup> 6:00PM at the Flickinger:           | Organizational Meeting – Presentation of detailed information about the vision, mission and organizational structure of the new MainGate United organization.  |
| June 14 <sup>th</sup> through COB June 27 <sup>th</sup> : | Nominations for 5 of the 11-member Leadership Group  |
| June 14 <sup>th</sup> through July 11 <sup>th</sup> :     | Membership Drive   |
| July 11 <sup>th</sup> Noon at Pepper's Grill:             | Membership Meeting – Briefly chaired by Bob Pattillo, Chairman of the TDY Task Force. After completion of the first order of business - election of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and two At Large Members - the new partial Leadership Group will run the rest of the meeting. Each member will then randomly draw their first 2-year long Service Team assignment. Additional business will be conducted as required. |
| July 12 <sup>th</sup> through August 7 <sup>th</sup> :    | Each of the six Service Teams will meet, as required. Each team will elect their leader prior to August 8 <sup>th</sup> since he/she will also serve on the Leadership Group.  |
| August 8 <sup>th</sup> Noon at the 19 <sup>th</sup> Hole: | First meeting that will be run by the entire 11-member Leadership Group.   |

As members of the TDY Task Force, we enthusiastically support the formation of MainGate United and its exciting future of serving the local civilian and military communities.