
From: Gutierrez, Barbara L CIV USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2010 11:29 AM
Subject: FW: Priavcy concerns on USAFA community site. No Cadet Data PPosted.
Importance: High

Parents' Club Presidents, once again I apologize for my error in sending the message from Lark, who oversees the community web site, regarding the illegal use of post office boxes, etc. So, to be fair, I've agreed to send the message below in defense of the other forums.

None of these forums are sanctioned by USAFA and I do not monitor them. In the future, I will not post messages from any forum.

I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone.

(BTW, it was brought to my attention that legally, the parents don't have the right to post their cadets' post office boxes without their permission since the cadets are emancipated once they enter the Academy.)

b

//SIGNED//

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From: soniaO [mailto:sonia@ottusch.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2010 10:48 AM
To: Gutierrez, Barbara L CIV USAF USAFA USAFA/CMA
Subject: RE: Priavcy concerns on USAFA community site. No Cadet Data PPosted.
Importance: High

Regards, Moderators & Owners
2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 USAFA parent yahoo groups

Dear fellow USAFA Parents' Club Presidents,

Please pass this message along to your members. Thank you kindly for your assistance.

Recently, you received an email from Barbara that forwarded a message from G. Lark Lindig, the creator and owner of www.usafacommunity.com. Like many of us might do, Barbara forwarded the email in good faith, taking at face value what the writer purported. In this case, the writer claimed that the various

USAFA parent yahoo groups were in violation of the 1974 Privacy Act with regards to the cadet PO Boxes. This accusation was ill founded and misguided.

We are the moderators of the various USAFA 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 parent yahoo groups. We were founded to be a forum of free communication and easy dialogue for all USAFA parents, without requests for funds or donations to offset our operating costs. We moderators freely donate all of our time and resources to allow our members to freely communicate. Several of us are website designers and engineers, who are fully versed with websites and their minimal costs (or lack of) for forum groups and websites like www.usafacommunity.com. We purposely provide FREE dialogue and a FREE website so as to encourage participation by as many Academy parents as possible.

To address Lark's misrepresentation of the facts about the USAFA parent yahoo groups:

- Each of the 2011-2014 yahoo groups membership enrollment requires very careful screening to ensure that the applicants are in fact USAFA parents or primary caregivers. We do not accept applicants who cannot provide their cadet information. (For the 2012 group, we also confirm current CW enrollment with applicants.)
- Each member that joins is requested, but not required, to provide the cadet's name and other information, including the PO Box. The parent provides the information freely and is notified that the information will be shared with other parents in a protected resource area of the yahoo group. Only members have access to this protected resource, the yahoo group database and each is specific to that group. As far as we're aware, this is in full compliance with the 1974 Privacy Act.

While we understand Lark's eagerness to promulgate her website (wherein she asks for donations of \$20-\$100 and more to offset her minimal costs), we respectfully request that the Academy community consider that she is competing with FREE yahoo groups that offer broadbased online access to many parents in each class and that we provide careful screening of all members. Combined, our yahoo group membership numbers 2,031 members compared to usafacommunity.com at 2,020 members and FamNet at 320+ members.

It has come to our very recent attention that a 2014 parent apparently posted cadet information for Beat the Beast PO Boxes that she had gathered apparently from the AOG website and made it available on the 2014 yahoo group. FYI, the yahoo groups Files section allows members to upload/download/edit/delete documents on an honor system. Respect for that honor system has not been a problem heretofore. The 2014 parent's activity was not condoned, requested, nor permitted explicitly by any of the yahoo groups. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause, and we are respectively reviewing our Files section for protective measures to ensure privacy from overzealous parents.

We moderators of the USAFA parent yahoo groups encourage everyone in the Academy community to join together in dialogue for FREE at absolutely no cost, unfettered by requests for annual fees or donations to support any minimal annual costs needed to maintain any of the fee-based online groups. We encourage all USAFA folks to join in online discussions -- freely without cost -- when we want to share news, discuss events, and learn information (like good fishing spots in the Springs).

Respectfully,

2011 moderators & owner (Nick DeBarmore Sr., Nancy Klass, Sr., Marilyn Weaver)
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/2011parents_afa/

2012 moderators (Marsha Casey, Greg Ernandes, Walter Howard, Sonia Ottusch) (Note: owner, Thomas Arneberg is backpacking in Philmont and could not be reached for comment.)
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/usafa2012parents/>

2013 moderators & owners (Mary Eileen Indelicato, Walter Howard, Jerry Miller, Ramona Rayhill)

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/USAFA_2013_Parents/

2014 moderators & owner (Barbara Greenway, Walter Howard, Marcie Johnson, Dwijen Misra)
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/usafa2014parents/>