



A50.—GROG BOWL GUIDANCE

GROG BOWL OVERVIEW

1. Toilet bowls or similar devices are prohibited for use as grog bowls.
2. Solid items will not be included as grog ingredients.
3. Cadets preparing the grog will drink the first cup (full) while demonstrating the proper reporting procedures to the President of the Mess.
4. The grog must be opened and closed before the guest speaker’s remarks.
5. The grog will be open for a maximum of 15 minutes during the program. The President of the Mess will close the grog by stating “Although violations are rampant, I feel enough have been dealt with and justice has been served. The decorum of the Mess has been restored.”
6. All violations must be in keeping with the rules of the Mess and in good taste.
7. No hazing or punitive actions are allowed as part of the Mess.
8. Guests will not be sent to the grog, instead appropriate cadet hosts will accept the honors in proxy.
9. Sending violators to the grog will be done in rhyme.

It’s a disgrace and it’s certainly a bore
 For someone forgot to leave duty at the door
 To the grog, Cadet Martin you should send
 For he is in violation of rule number ten

To this Mess I must confess
 There is a problem I will address
 Though I really hate to turn in my mate
 Cadet Smith reported late

Was it a call of nature that couldn’t wait
 Or a call home to say he would be late
 Whatever the reason for his departure jive
 Cadet Jones is in violation of rule number five

10. Cadets directed to report to the grog will use the attached procedures.

GROG BOWL PROCEDURES

Members directed to the grog will follow these procedures:

1. Without talking any further, proceed directly to the grog bowl
2. Square corners to and from the grog bowl.
3. Salute the grog bowl.
4. Take a cup of grog (at least 1/3 full), face the Mess, raise the cup and say “To the Mess,” and drink the contents of the cup without removing it from the lips.
5. Tip the cup upside down over your head.
6. About face, replace the cup, salute the grog, and return to your seat.
7. Omitting any step requires repeating the entire procedure.



TRADITION

Formal military dinners are a tradition in all branches of the United States armed services. In the Air Force and Navy, it is the Dining-In; in the Army, the Regimental dinner; in the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, Mess Night.

As with most ancient traditions, the origin of the Dining-In is not clear. Formal dinners are rooted in antiquity. From pre-Christ Roman Legions, to second century Viking warlords, to King Arthur's knights in the sixth century, feasts to honor military victories and individual and unit achievements have been a custom.

Some trace the origins of the Dining-In to the old English monasteries. The custom was then taken up by the early universities and eventually adopted by the military with the advent of the officers' mess. With the adoption of the Dining-In by the military, these dinners became more formalized. British soldiers brought the custom to colonial America, where it was borrowed by George Washington's continental army.

The Air Force Dining-In custom probably began in the 1930s with the late General H. H. "Hap" Arnold's "*Wing-dings*." The close bonds enjoyed by Air Corps officers and their British colleagues of the Royal Air Force during World War II surely added to the American involvement in the Dining-In custom.

The Dining-In has served the Air Force well as an occasion for officers to meet socially at a formal military function. It enhances the esprit de corps of units, lightens the load of demanding day-to-day work, gives the commander an opportunity to meet socially with his/her officers, and enables officers of all ranks to create bonds of friendship and better working relations through an atmosphere of good fellowship.

One of the most traditional parts of a Dining-In/Out has been the "Grog Bowl." The history of the "Grog Bowl" has become obscured with time. It is thought that during the years of the westward expansion, Cavalry Troopers would share their spirits with one another thereby ensuring that all fellow troopers had something. The spirits usually consisted of what ever an individual trooper's taste was, and that, when mixed with other drinks, created a powerful drink known as "GROG".

The comradeship developed over the decades and through the various wars and campaigns usually entailed the rare opportunity to share spirits with each other. Today's "GROG" is more symbolic. It encompasses the age old custom of sharing with the history of a unit.

It is now recognized that the Dining-In is an occasion where ceremony, tradition, and good fellowship play an important part in the life of an Air Force Unit.

The Dining-In has a rich tradition; and that tradition lives today.

The Dining-Out is similar in all aspects to a Dining-In. The major difference is that the Dining-Out includes spouses and guests.



GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSING TOASTS

If a member of the Mess wishes to propose a toast, use the following procedures:

- Stand and face the Mess
- Address the Vice by saying:
- “Mister/Madam Vice, a point of order.”
- After being recognized, identify himself/herself:
- “I am C/Amn Jon Doe from (State your unit...Example AL-011)
- _____ High School.”
- State your business

The Vice will then inform the President and once his approval is received, the Vice will then ask the Mess to please stand. After allowing time for all members and guests to rise, the toast will then be given by the member who proposed it.

It is not necessary (nor is it proper) to drain the glass at the completion of each toast. A simple touch of the glass to the lips will satisfy the ceremonial requirements.

TOASTS

Toast to the US Flag
Response: “To The Colors”

Toast to Our Commander-in-Chief, the
President of the United States
Response: “To The President”

Toast To the Air Force Chief of Staff,
General Michael E. Ryan
Response: “To The Chief”

Toast (in water) To Those Who Have Gone
Before
Response: “To Our Departed Brothers and
Sisters”

Toast To the Air Education and Training
Command Commander,
General Lloyd “Fig” Newton
Response: “Hear, Hear”

Responses To All Other Toasts During the
Evening:
“Hear, Hear



TUSCOLA AIRPOWER

PROTOCOL

1. Members of the Mess arrive and socialize with guests.
2. When Mr. Vice rings the chimes, members/guests enter the dining area and stand behind their chairs. Members of the head table enter the Mess.
3. The President of the Mess formally opens, and presides over the Mess according to the agenda.
4. Each time the Mess is adjourned and reassembled, members/guests enter the Mess and stand behind their chairs until members of the head table are in place, and the President reopens the Mess.

RULES OF THE MESS

1. Thou shalt not be late.
2. Thou shalt make every effort to meet all guests.
3. Thou shalt move to the Mess when thee hears the chimes and remain standing until seated by the President.
4. Thou shalt not murder the Queen's English.
5. Thou shalt not leave the Mess while it is convened. Military protocol overrides all calls of nature.
6. Thou shalt participate in all toasts unless thyself or thy group is being honored with a toast.
7. Thou shalt ensure that thy glass is always charged while toasting.
8. Thou shalt keep toasts and comments within the limits of good taste and mutual respect. Degrading or insulting remarks will be frowned upon by the membership; however, good natured needling is ENCOURAGED.
9. Thou shalt not open the hanger doors (talk Shop).
10. Thou shalt always use the proper toasting procedures.
11. Thou shalt consume thy meal in a manner becoming gentlepersons.
12. Thou shalt not laugh at ridiculously funny comments unless the President first shows approval by laughing.
13. Thou shalt not question the decisions of the President, otherwise known as caviling.
14. When the Mess opens or is adjourned, thou shalt rise and wait for the head table to take their places or depart.
15. Thou shalt not begin eating a course of the meal before members of the head table have begun.
16. Thou shalt not engage in verbal exchange whilst another member has the floor.
17. Thou shalt enjoy thyself to the fullest.