**Ringing of the Chimes**

**\_\_:** “I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Mister President of the Mess, officially call this dining-in to order**. Gavel 3x**. Please prepare for the arrival of the official party and remain standing for the presentation of the colors.”

“Please take your seats.” **Gavel 1x.** “Welcome to Cadet Squadron Ten’s Semi-Formal Dining Event. Before we get started, I would like to introduce our head table. Sage Cunningham, Squadron Commander. Major Andy Allen, Squadron AOC, MSgt Zachary Marshall, Squadron AMT, \_\_\_\_\_, “

**\_\_:** Rules of the Mess: “Now we turn to the mess. Following military tradition, we will conduct our dining in in accordance to the Rules of the Mess. Please find the pamphlets on your table and follow along as I review them.

**Rules of the Mess**

Thou shalt arrive at least 10 minutes before the appointed hour.   
Thou shalt not sit before the dinner bells are rung.   
Thou shalt make every effort to meet all guests.   
Thou shalt move to the mess when thee hear the chimes and remain standing until seated by the President.   
Thou shalt not leave the mess whilst convened. Military protocol overrides all calls of nature.   
Thou shalt participate in all toasts unless thyself or thy group is honored with a toast.   
Thou shalt ensure that thy glass is always charged when toasting.   
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.   
Thou shalt not murder the Queen's English.   
Thou shalt not open the hangar doors.   
Thou shalt consume thy meal in a manner becoming gentlepersons.   
Thou shalt not laugh at ridiculously funny comments unless the President first shows approval by laughing.

Whilst addressing someone at their table, thou shalt commence with “My Lorrdd or My Lady” in their most eloquent British accent.   
Thou shalt express thy approval by tapping thy spoon on the table. Clapping of thy hands will not be tolerated.

Thou shalt always have the most erect of pinkies when discharging their beverage.

Thou shalt not question the decisions of the President.   
When the mess adjourns, thou shalt rise and wait for the President and guests to leave.   
Thou shalt enjoy thyself to thy fullest.

Are there any questions? These rules outline the protocol of our event and will be followed judiciously. Violators of the mess will be sent to the GROG!”

**R:** History of the Grog: “This brings us to the grog. As you can see, the grog’s place is at the center of the room so that all may see. Let us take a minute to review the formal dining-in and grog’s importance and development through history.

“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 ancient jungle tiger feasts, 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 an old Viking tradition of celebrating their victorious battles and collective feats of heroism with a formal feasting ceremony. It is believed that this tradition later spread to England – possibly carried there with the Norman invasions. The tradition was further passed with the establishment of the Officer’s Mess in British military units. British soldiers brought the custom to colonial America, where it was borrowed by George Washington’s continental army. World Wars I and II brought the American and British military close together and exposed U. S. officers to this ancient tradition of the dining-in.

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 maybe 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 whatever an individual trooper’s taste was, and that, when mixed with other drinks, created a powerful drink known as “GROG”.

A more popular theory, at least amongst this crowd, is that the grog originated with sailors and Vikings. Vikings required significant quantities of fresh water on extended voyages. The fresh water was stored in casks which quickly developed algae and became slimy. Vikings sweetened the stagnant water with beer, wine, and later rum to make it more palatable. Around 1700, sailors began adding citrus juice into the mix to cut down of the water’s foulness. Noting that those who consumed the mix with citrus juice seemed less susceptible to illness compare to those who did not, Admiral Vernon, known as “Old Grog,” began serving citrus infused grog to his sailors. Hence, the term ‘grog’ was coined and simultaneously the cure to Scurvy was serendipitously found.

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 as 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 endures today in the Tigers of Cadet Squadron 10.”

**R:** Grog Ceremony and demonstration of Grog Procedure(Demonstrator: ):

“At this time direct your attention to the grog bowl and its construction. Will Cadet \_\_\_\_ and Cadet \_\_\_\_\_\_ please come forward? For those of us who are of drinking age, your grog is especially troublesome. To it we add:

* A Bottle of Bacardi Gold Rum
* A Bottle of Jose Cuervo Tequila
* A Bottle of orange liqueur
* A Bottle of Smirnoff vodka
* A Boot- as a reminder of our place in the military and our military heritage
* Finally, an orange to prevent scurvy and make the grog more pleasurable to the taste.

For those of us who are not of drinking age, do not fret, for your grog is equally troublesome. To it we add:

* Double strength fruit punch (215 proof)
* Garlic Powder
* Onion Powder
* Tabasco
* Worcestershire Sauce
* A boot for the same reasons as described before
* Finally, an orange to prevent scurvy and to make your grog more pleasurable to the taste.

At this time Cadet \_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_ will demonstrate grog procedures by making a point of order.

“Cadet \_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ , Proceed.”

“(Cadet Violator) proceed to the Grog”

Salute, to the Mess. “Fill your Cup and proceed.”

Salute again. “Huzahhh.”

“At this time will the Vice President of the Mess, Cadet \_\_\_\_\_\_, please give the toast?”

**Y:** Toasts:

“The Grog period will be open following the commencement of the dinner portion. For now, I propose a toast.”

To the President of the United States

To the United States Air Force

To the United Air Force Academy

To the Tigers of Squadron Ten

To our guests

“Are there any other toast from the mess?”

“If not, then I propose a couple more toasts:”

To ...

To …

**R:** Invocation: Chaplain Mossing (Charles)

“Thank you Mister Vice President. If there are no other toasts, the mess invites Cadet Collin Charles for the invocation”

“Thank you Charles”

“With the knowledge of grog protocol now in your brains, and with the absence of food in your stomachs, I do declare the grog open and dinner served.” **Gavel 1x**

Dinner and Grog Requests:

“Cadet X, Proceed.”

“(Cadet Violator) proceed to the Grog”

Salute, ‘to the Mess’. “Fill your Cup and proceed.”

Salute again. “Huzzahhh.”

**R: 1900:** “Although violations are rampant, I feel enough have been dealt with and justice hath been served. The decorum of the Mess has been restored and I do declare the Grog closed for requests.” **Gavel 1x**

**R:** Guest Speaker:

**1930:** “Tonight I have the pleasure of introducing our guest speaker, \_\_\_\_\_. (Background) People of the mess, please welcome \_\_\_\_\_\_.”

“Thank you \_\_\_\_\_\_. **Coin.** I now do declare the grog reopened for proposals.”

Grog Requests:

“Cadet X, Proceed.”

“(Cadet Violator) proceed to the Grog”

Salute, ‘to the Mess’. “Fill your Cup and proceed.”

Salute again. “Huzzzahhh.”

**R: 2017:** It is now 2017 (BUD!) “Last Call for Grog Requests.” “I do declare the Grog closed for requests.” **Gavel 1x**

**R: 2020**: As the night comes to a close, I hope everyone had a great time tonight being in one another’s company, and with any luck my voice wasn’t too annoying. While us Tigers may have decreased our risk of scurvy, I would venture to say that tonight our livers and taste buds have not been so lucky. I personally had a lot of fun and it is our hope that the Tiger classes to follow carry on this outstanding tradition. I would like to thank all you for attending this event, as well as the \_\_\_\_\_ staff for an outstanding meal. I would also like to thank our special guest: \_\_\_\_\_ for his words of wisdom. Lastly, I would like to take the time to thank our AMT, Associate AOCs, and AOC for the hard work they contribute in order to make Tiger Ten the outstanding squadron that it is. Thank you all very much and ~~make sure you sign the paper unless you want to pay $24.”~~

**R:** Closing the Mess 1730:

“With that, I doth declare this formal dining in adjourned. **Gavel 3x**. Please stand for the departure of the official party.”

“Grog Adjourned.” **Gavel 17x**