

## Academy Night draws big crowd

Dozens of students and their parents turned out for Rep. Devin Nunes' first Academy Night.

The event featured keynote speaker Brig. General Ed Munger and was held at the Heritage Complex of the International Agri-Center in Tulare.

Representatives from four U.S. service academies offered insights on the application process of becoming a cadet.

Gen. Munger inspired attendees with his insights on military life and told the students a life of service is a worthy goal both in and out of the military.

He cautioned the crowd of believing everything they read and heard about the progress being made in Iraq. He said many of the more positive stories are being ignored.

Also on hand was an A4 Skyhawk light attack jet from the Naval Air Station in Lemoore.

"Our service academies are producing this nation's next generation of great leaders. I'm happy to say there are many outstanding candidates right here in Fresno and Tulare counties who are qualified to join those ranks," the congressman said.

Mr. Nunes is forming a five-member selection committee made up of Fresno and Tulare county community members to interview candidates and make recommendations to the congressman for each academy.

There are four U.S. Service Academies that require a nomination from a member of Congress or the Vice President in order to attend. They include: U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, and the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO.

Cadets who are chosen for a military academy receive an education valued at about \$300,000 that is no cost to them. Upon graduation, cadets have a military rank and are required to serve their particular branch of the military for a designated period of time.



(From left to right) Lt. Col. Gerald G. Garwick USMC (ret.) (rep from West Point), Rep. Nunes, Brig. General Ed Munger (ret.) (guest speaker), Lt. Col. Bruce Goetas USAF (rep from Air Force Academy) and Herb Borup USNR Officer (ret.) (rep from Kings Point)



Rep. Nunes and Brig. General Ed Munger pose for a quick photo in front of an A4 Skyhawk light attack jet from the Naval Air Station Lemoore.



(From left to right) Karl Peterson, a counselor from Clovis East High School, and Gary Prentice, a counselor from Clovis High School, gather information about the Merchant Marine Academy from Herb Borup USNR Officer (ret.)