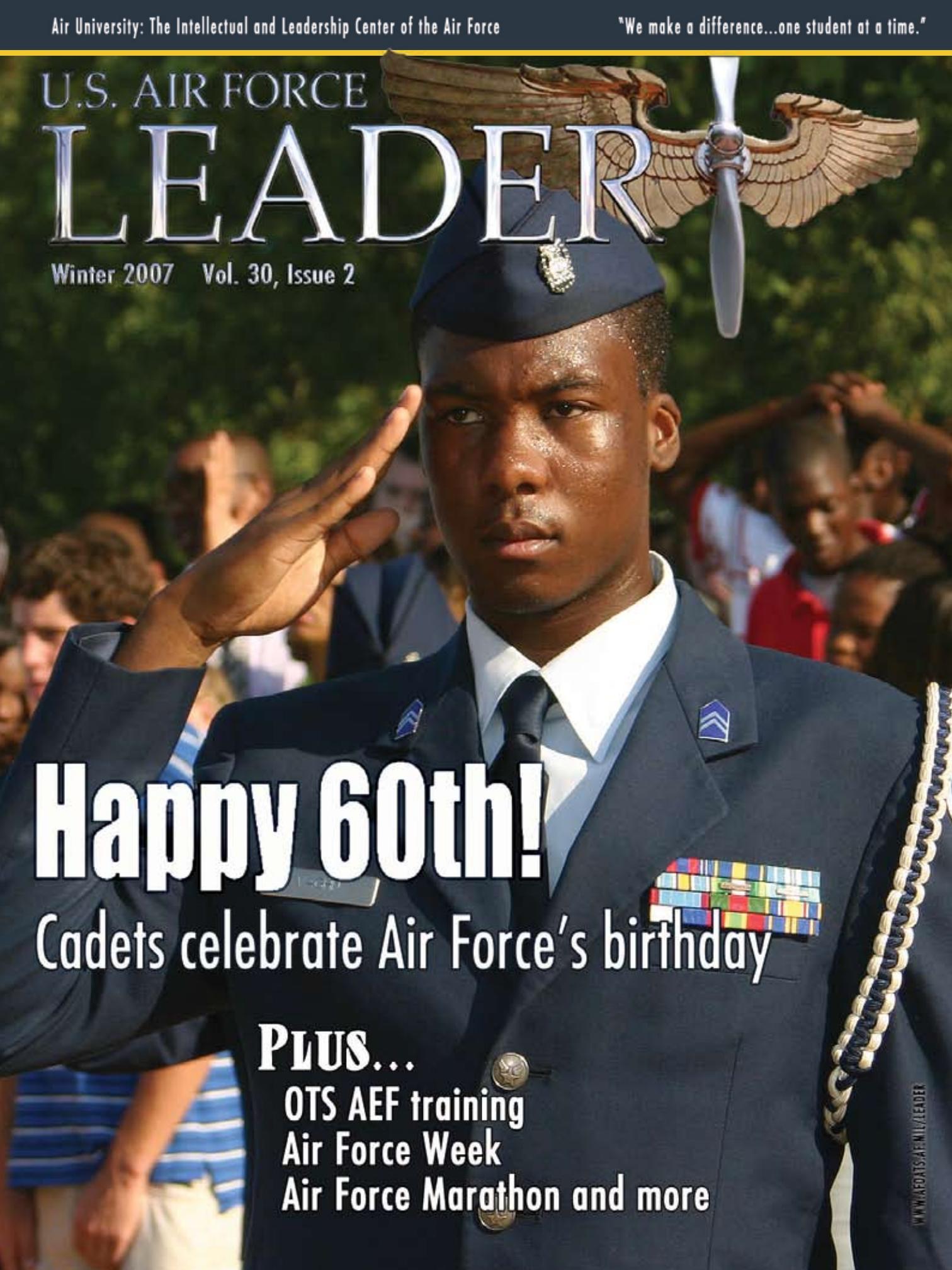


U.S. AIR FORCE LEADER

Winter 2007 Vol. 30, Issue 2



Happy 60th!

Cadets celebrate Air Force's birthday

PLUS...

OTS AEF training
Air Force Week

Air Force Marathon and more

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Air Force/Airman 1st Class Nora Anton

U.S. AIR FORCE LEADER

A PRODUCT OF AIR FORCE OFFICER ACCESSION AND TRAINING SCHOOLS

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On the cover...



Cadet Edward L. Vaughn from Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, Ala., salutes the American flag during a 9/11 Remembrance ceremony. See page 23 for more details. (Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake)

Junior ROTC director outlines goals, challenges under new tenure

Story and photo by

Scott Knuteson

Air University Public Affairs

A rescue helicopter command pilot with more than 3,700 flight hours, Col. Richard Ragaller, Air Force Junior ROTC director, said he equates some of what he does in his office these days to rescue efforts he has conducted throughout his career.

"I've been in the operational rescue arena most of my life," Colonel Ragaller said. "The similarity between that and Junior ROTC is that what we do has a long-range impact on people. In combat rescue it was the same — it was a lot of work, but when you had a successful rescue, you changed somebody's life and their family's life."

But Junior ROTC is different in that results are not as immediately apparent as they are in rescue work, he added.

"Especially for the staff here, it's a challenge to get them to see the impact of their hard work, day-in and day-out," he said.

Part of the complexity of communicating the enormous effect his organization has on students lies in the size of the program.

"We're a very dynamic organization," he said. "There's a lot going on. We have 869 units spread across the world. Seventeen of those are overseas."

Last year alone, Air Force Junior ROTC collectively provided approximately 1.8 million hours of community service time.

In addition to giving to the community, Colonel Ragaller hopes students will reap the benefits Junior ROTC has to offer them since the high school he graduated from never had the program.

"You're in a great program," he said. "Take advantage of all the things it has to offer. We have some extremely dedicated instructors out there — retired officers and NCOs. The more you glean from them and use them as mentors, the better."

He also hopes students will stick with it until their senior year.

"We lose about half of our students after their first year," he said. "Only about one out of every four cadets who started as a freshman will graduate as a senior in Junior ROTC. I'd like to encourage them to stay a little bit longer."

One way Colonel Ragaller hopes to better the corps and raise retention rates is by mak-



ing life easier on the instructors.

"My hat's off to the entire instructor core out there," he said. "I continue to hear stories of extra hours and extra effort they put in to supporting this program. My goal and commitment to them is to try to minimize the amount of paperwork and extraneous stuff as much as possible so they can spend the majority of their time doing what they need to do, which is mentor and lead kids."

The colonel knows how challenging paperwork can be.

When he arrived in his new position at the end of July, the colonel hit the ground running, deftly leading his team through a series of red-tape obstacles related to funding Junior ROTC detachments. Recent changes to the funding system led to some confusion, a problem that was compounded by the start of the school year. Colonel Ragaller hopes to correct it soon.

But that isn't the only goal Colonel Ragaller has. Shaping the Junior ROTC curriculum is a top priority in light of recent educational legislation.

"We're trying to make sure we understand the impact of legislation such as 'No Child Left Behind' and the implementation of it in each state," he said. "There are a lot of states out there that are increasing their high school core requirements, and rightfully so. Unfortunately, it limits the number of elective credits kids can take. When that happens, there are fewer opportunities for students to take advantage of Junior ROTC. We're trying to tailor our curriculum so that more states will acknowledge that it can count as a core course."

In addition, the colonel plans to develop a written strategy for Junior ROTC, some-

thing that has never been done.

"One of the things I think we need is a strategic plan," he said. "What does the Air Force want Junior ROTC to look like?"

The Air Force and Congress have determined that one way Junior ROTC will change is by increasing in size, Colonel Ragaller said.

"The Air Force and congressional goal is to grow to 955 units. Over the next four to five years, we'd like to achieve that number," he said.

While the goal of Junior ROTC organization is to expand, Colonel Ragaller said that his predecessor, Col. Norm Belchunas, fought hard to improve the wellness of cadets. That is something Colonel Ragaller plans to continue during his tenure.

"Colonel Belchunas set out on a crusade to stem that wave of obesity and the potential of diabetes and to get our cadets to understand that maintaining wellness is a lifelong agenda," Colonel Ragaller said. "We have a wellness program called Extreme Excellence Challenge, which is 20 percent of our curriculum."

The Air Force Junior ROTC mission is to "develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community."

Recently, Junior ROTC has seen some opposition in a few school districts because the purpose of the program has been misconstrued as a recruiting tool, which it is not.

Asked what he would say to those who oppose the program, the colonel responded: "I would ask them if learning self-discipline is good for somebody, if building confidence in someone is good, if teaching someone how to set goals is good and if becoming a better leader and citizen in their community is good. If all of those are bad things, then I agree that Junior ROTC shouldn't be there."

"[Junior ROTC] is a leadership and citizenship program. One of our challenges is to overcome the perception that we are there to recruit kids into the military. That is the recruiting service's goal, not ours. Our goal is to build better citizens for America." 🙌

CSAF'S SCOPE

**By General T. Michael Moseley
Air Force Chief of Staff**

SERE TRAINING

Airmen are engaged around the world in a fight different from the one we envisioned years ago. Today's battlefields are non-linear and non-contiguous, changing shape and venue, and Airmen are assigned to many non-traditional roles outside the wire.

On yesterday's battlefields, it was much easier to designate who would and would not cross into enemy territory and risk being captured. Now nearly any Airman could become isolated and need Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape training.

For me, all of this points to a greater need to make sure our Airmen know how to react in any situation they find themselves. To address this emerging requirement, I recently invited other Air Force leaders to a summit where we discussed the SERE training we provide our Airmen.

Since 1949 SERE training has traditionally focused on those Airmen who were considered most "at risk" – such as aircrew – to prepare them for captivity situations. Today we're looking to expand the scope of our SERE training so that every Airman is properly trained to fight, to survive, and to return with honor. Look for developments in SERE training over the coming months...developments I believe will increase our ability to accomplish our mission for the Nation.

Fly, Fight, and Win! 



Around the Air Force

CSAF addresses future of airpower at conference

WASHINGTON -- The Air Force chief of staff wrapped up the three-day Air Force Association's 2007 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition with an address before a crowd of several hundred Sept. 26.

"Today the Air Force dominates in air and space and is rapidly expanding its capabilities in the domain of cyberspace," General Moseley said. "Today the Air Force provides those decisive effects on a global scale. Today it is universally recognized (as the) source of national strength. Today, your Air Force provides our nation true global vigilance, global reach and global power, but our ability to accomplish all this in the future is at risk."

With forces actively engaged in the war on terrorism and new threats emerging, the Air Force faces the serious challenge of positioning the total force for things to come.

F-15s undergo extensive technical inspections

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. -- Air Force maintainers continue to perform methodical and time-intensive inspections on all F-15 Eagle A, B, C and D model aircraft which are revealing more cracks in the aircraft longerons.

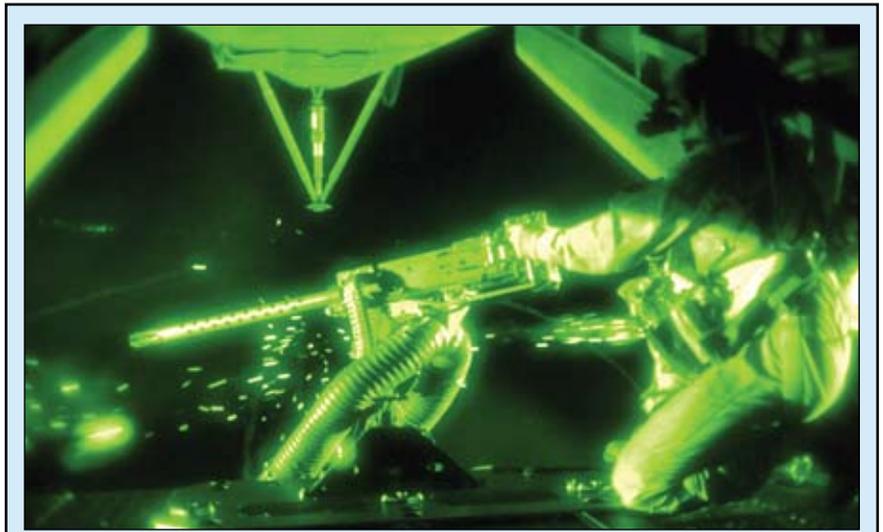
The discovery of more structural damage in the F-15s prompted the Dec. 3 stand-down order from Air Combat Command Commander Gen. John Corley.

The decision follows additional information received from the ongoing investigation of the Nov. 2 F-15C mishap, which resulted in the loss of that aircraft. The Accident Investigation Board found defects which indicate potential structural damage in the rest of the fleet.

Air Force leaders discuss need to control cyberspace

NEW CASTLE, N.H. -- Military and industry leaders spoke about the tremendous warfighting value of controlling cyberspace, but they were just as clear about the inherent threats.

"If we lose our ability to use cyberspace,



Air Force/Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

Guns blazin'

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- Staff Sgt. Matthew Hanlon scans for incoming threats from the back of his MH-53 Pave Low helicopter while flares used for radar countermeasures are jettisoned during a training exercise over a live-fire range here.

we lose our ability to war-fight," said. Col. Tony Buntyn, director of 8th Air Force's Global Cyberspace Air Operations Center at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

Speaking at the Fifth Annual Net-Centric Operations Conference in September, Colonel Buntyn and others shared ideas for making Air Force and Department of Defense computer networks safer and more effective.

Because lives can be saved and because terrorists and others are already exploiting cyberspace to America's detriment, the U.S. and its military have little choice but to do so, explained Maj. Gen. William Lord, who had just been announced as the incoming commander of the new, provisional Air Force Cyber Command at Barksdale.

Nellis to save \$1M annually using solar panels

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. - Officials from Nellis Air Force Base and SunPower Corp. are scheduled to finalize the commission of 15 megawatts in solar power to the base this month, making up North America's largest solar photovoltaic power system.

When complete, the solar power will save the base \$1 million annually.

Power produced by the solar array will cut the base's energy costs, saving Nellis AFB roughly \$83,000 on its monthly electric bill once the entire system is commissioned.

The solar power system has been under construction since June 2007. The solar farm will cover 140 acres of Nellis AFB land and will consist of approximately 70,000 solar panels when completed.

Hickam commemorates 66th anniversary of attack

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii -- Survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Hickam Air Field, and their family members descended upon Hickam Air Force Base for a commemorative ceremony to pay tribute and remember those who paid the ultimate cost.

The commemoration is a time-honored tradition but attendance is steadily decreasing. Each year there are fewer survivors. Most simply can't make the trip and others are joining their fallen comrades. 

School briefs



Courtesy photo

A heartfelt farewell

Junior ROTC Cadet Chantal Carrigan from TX-20009 at Medina Valley High School receives a flag from fellow cadets Louis Hawkins and John Middlebrooks in honor of her grandfather, retired Chief Master Sgt. CJ Moore, who passed away. Cadets from the unit's drill team conducted a flag folding ceremony Sept. 26 during a monthly commander's call. "Chief Moore was one of the original chief master sergeants and it was an honor for our unit to fold his flag," explained retired Col. Glenn Larsen, TX-20009 Senior Aerospace Science Instructor.

NV-941 scholar meets President Bush (JROTC)

WASHINGTON — Cadet Melanie Mathis from NV-941 at Durango High School, Nev., was one of the few high school students in the country to meet President George W. Bush during an American Legion sponsored Boys and Girl's Nation visit to the capitol July 25. Cadet Mathis, a senior and operations officer for NV-941, also had the opportunity to meet Nevada's senators, Harry Reid and John Ensign.

NJ-20003 cadet saves life, receives 'medal of honor' (JROTC)

WILLIAMSTOWN, N.J. — Cadet Jay

Edmonds recently received Junior ROTC's highest honor, the Golden Valor Award, for saving the lives of his neighbors who were caught in a fire last May.

In the cadet's hometown newspaper, the Gloucester County Times, retired Capt. Greg Faughner applauded his cadet and two brothers who helped evacuate the two-story apartment after a lightning strike.

"The Gold Valor Award is really hard to get," he said. "It's basically the medal of honor of the Junior ROTC."

Instructor named AFA 'Teacher of the Year' (JROTC)

BLUE SPRINGS, Mo. — Retired Maj. Paul Bekebrede from MO-941 at Blue

Springs South High School, Mo., was selected as the Air Force Association Chapter 185 "Teacher of the Year" earlier this year.

Mr. Bekebrede said the award demonstrates that people in the local communities appreciate what Air Force Junior ROTC is doing in schools and communities.

"What we do is so important for the future of our nation and our Air Force," he said.

NE-771 rally up funds for fallen Sailor (JROTC)



OMAHA, Neb. — Cadets from NE-771 at Bellevue West High School helped make a fallen Sailor's wish a reality by rallying up more than \$2,500 for Connie Cheney, mother of Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey Chaney who was killed in Iraq this summer.

According to the Sailor's family, it was Petty Officer Chaney's wish to donate special socks to his explosive ordnance disposal unit in the desert. NE-771 presented a check to Mrs. Cheney before a high school football game in front of hundreds of fans, friends and family. Mrs. Cheney pledged to use the funds donated to buy the socks for everyone in her son's unit.

Cadets give blood to a good cause (JROTC)

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Sixty high school students from Gateway High School here donated blood to the American Red Cross during MO-851's annual blood drive Nov. 2. This was the 13th year the unit held the drive.

Continued on next page

School briefs

Lakenheath cadets remember POW/MIAs (JROTC)

LAKENHEATH ROYAL AIR FORCE BASE, U.K. — Cadets from UK-073 at Lakenheath High School participated in activities Sept. 20-21 to honor prisoners of war and servicemembers still missing in action.

During a 24-hour vigil ceremony at the base, cadets provided a four-person color guard detail and volunteers to read names of POWs and MIAs from national conflicts. Cadet Corps Commander, Tatianna Downey, also laid a wreath at Lest We Forget Memorial Park before a four ship fly-by of Lakenheath F-15 Eagles closed the event.

Clemson University cadets pay tribute to 9/11 victims (ROTC)

CLEMSON, N.C. — Cadets from Clemson University's Det. 770 remembered 9/11 victims with a wreath laying ceremony on the school's campus. The school's Pershing Rifles unit also conducted a 21-gun salute during the ceremony.

Det. 310 hosts tri-service sports competition (ROTC)

BATON ROUGE, La. — Cadets from Det. 310 representing Louisiana State University, Southern University and Southeastern Louisiana University tested their endurance in a competition against their Army and Navy counterparts Sept. 28.

The Dronet Challenge, named in honor of a Marine Corps helicopter pilot Lt. Shane Dronet who was killed in action while fighting the Global War on Terrorism, tested cadets' ability to perform push ups, sit ups, pull ups as well as the ability to work as a team in activities such as the stretcher relay, tug of war and three-mile relay.

"Possibly the finest moment of the day for the 'Flying Tigers' was during the iron man competition when every single [cadet] in attendance joined our competitor on the track to spur him on to completion," explained Maj. Edward Segura, Det. 310 commandant of cadets. "While our cadets didn't take first place in the competition, they did perform admirably."

University of Delaware's Det. 128 goes hiking (ROTC)

NEWARK, Del. — More than 20 cadets from the University of Delaware hiked 12 miles up the Appalachian Mountains Nov. 4. After two hours of hiking, the ca-

dets took a break at the half-way point to try meals ready to eat while gazing down on the Potomac River hundreds of feet below.

"The view was certainly amazing," explained Cadet Alana Casey.

"I've hiked many different sections of the Appalachian Trail and that was one of my favorite overlooks," added Cadet Matt Roland.

Det. 470 pays tribute to POWs, MIAs (ROTC)

OMAHA, Neb. — Months of preparation and coordination with the local police, Air Force Association and cross-town rival, Creighton University, paid off as Det. 470 at the University of Nebraska successfully hosted its first Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Remembrance Run and Vigil Nov. 17.

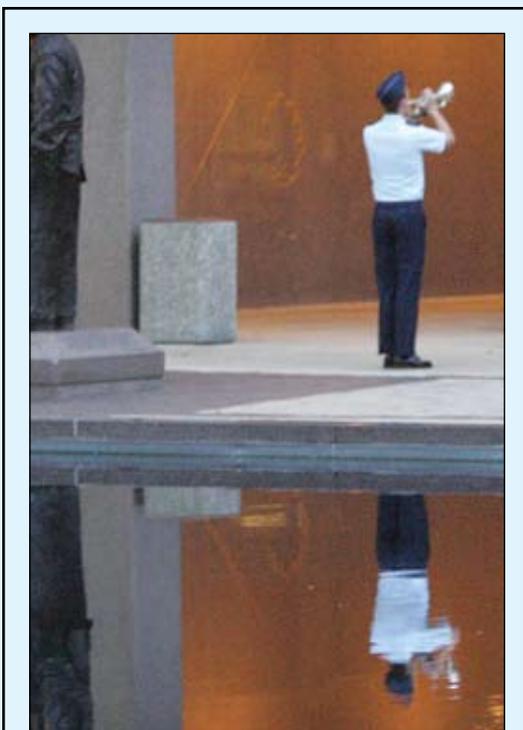
In addition to the 4.1 miles joint service run, cadets volunteered to spend one or two hours inside a mock POW cell. At the end of the run, the cadet wing commander and Army battalion commander conducted a POW release and repatriation ceremony before concluding with a joint retreat ceremony. More than 80 cadets and cadre staff participated in the entire event.

Det. 910 alumni visits from unlikely place (ROTC)

SEATTLE — Students from Det. 910 at the University of Washington, Northwest Region received a visit from one of their alumni during the Apple Cup football game against Washington State University Nov. 24.

Capt. Jonathan Gunter, who graduated from Det. 910 in 2003, performed a B-52 Stratofortress flyby to mark the historic 100th Apple Cup between Washington's two largest universities.

"Getting a chance to fly over Husky stadium for the 100th anniversary was really special," Captain Gunter later explained. "Never in my wildest dreams would I have had the opportunity to perform a fly by over Husky Stadium as an aircraft commander of a B-52."



South Bend Tribune/Jim Rider

Remembering 9/11

Cadet Daniel Pittner from Notre Dame's Det. 225 and member of the Band of the Fighting Irish plays Taps during a 9/11 memorial service at Notre Dame. More than 240 cadets representing three military services honored the victims of 9/11 with a solemn ceremony.

AFOATS commander pins on second star

By Carl Bergquist

Air University Public Affairs

Brig. Gen. Alfred Flowers, Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools commander, became Maj. Gen. Alfred Flowers in a ceremony Nov. 1, marking the 15th promotion in his distinguished career.

The ceremony was held at AFOATS' Leadership Hall before an audience of family, friends and colleagues including his son Alfred Jr., an active duty Air Force major.

General Flowers said promotions are kind of like birthdays except they don't come every year.

"And, that's too bad because if my promotions were my birthdays, I'd be turning 32 here today," he joked.

Looking out at the crowd of more than 200 people, General Flowers said he would like to "first thank God" for allowing him to continue to serve the greatest Air Force in the world.

General Flowers began his Air Force career as an airman basic after joining the service at age 17. After receiving his master's degree in 1976, he applied to Officer Training School and was accepted. At the time, he had a line number for master sergeant.

"I elected to attend OTS because I had completed a master's degree, and thought I could make a greater impact sooner as a commissioned officer," the general said. "As I assisted with orienting new lieutenants, it became apparent I could possibly be one."

General Flowers was in financial management during his enlisted career and return to the same field after commissioning. He was, as a second lieutenant, given the job of wing financial officer, usually a senior first lieutenant or captain's job. The general from there, advanced through the officer ranks. He said experience, great bosses and great mentors all contributed to where he is today.

Lt. Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Air University commander, who presided over the event, said the ceremony was, "a big deal," and it meant a lot to him because he has relied on General Flower's

advice, on a nearly daily basis, since they first met in 2001.

"This promotion also means service to the nation, and indicates how the general and his wife Ida have served their country," General Lorenz said.

The Air University commander went on to say it had been a good journey for General Flowers and his family, and one of the great things about him is that he is a mentor.

"People come to him for advice, and they really admire and respect that advice," he said.

Following the promotion ceremony, General Lorenz per-

formed an officer renewal of vows ceremony that the general called, "A great Air Force tradition that reminds us of why we are here."

General Flowers said it has been an honor to serve, and, pointing to his wife Ida, said he has done all of his commissioned service, "with this lady here."

He said there were times over the years when she seemed to be at the end of her rope, but when that happened, he would tell her, "Tie a knot and hang on."

"You are the wind beneath my wings, and the person who has supported me for 29 years," General Flowers told her.

He commented that in the audience, there was someone who had served with him and his wife at every base they had been sent. "While all of you are special, these folks are special, special people to have at this ceremony,"

General Flowers said.

Presenting his grandsons with his new two-star coin, he jokingly told them they had already received a coin from a three-star, so they probably wouldn't want his coin.

"This isn't about us," General Flowers said in closing. "It is very much about service to a great nation."

For fellow Airmen who might want to follow in his footsteps, the general has some advice based on his experiences in the service.

"Do your best everyday and maintain a good positive attitude. It is a personal choice and makes a huge difference. Persistence pays, and the playing field may not always be level, but we should get on it and play," he said. 🧡



Air Force/Melanie Rodgers

Maj. Gen. Alfred Flowers, Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools commander, hugs his grandson, Kendell Flowers, son of Maj. Alfred Flowers Jr., during a promotion ceremony in the general's honor. More than 200 friends, coworkers and family attended the ceremony to present the general his second star.



Capt. Nikolay and Zoya Sky, who immigrated to America eight years ago from Russia with just a few belongings and \$500, graduated from Officer Training School recently and now serve as Air Force dentists at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

Russian dentists work hard to get a piece of 'American dream'

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Air University Public Affairs

It's amazing what you can do with \$500 and an American dream.

More than eight years ago, Nikolay and Zoya Sky immigrated to New York City from Russia with just \$500 cash, some personal items and their pets. They also couldn't speak a word of English.

"We didn't know at the time, but after we arrived we also had to quarantine our parakeet that ended up costing us about \$300 of what we had saved," explained Zoya.

After completing more than eight years of dental education in two different countries, learning English while working various jobs, and graduating from Officer Training School two weeks ago, the couple can now do what they've always dreamed of doing... dentistry.

Nikolay, a native St. Petersburg, Russia, served two years in the Russian air force after being drafted as a physician assistant. On one mission, the 37-year-old was al-

most killed when he was tasked to provide field medicine support as a bomb disposal team went out to examine a 'dud' bomb dropped on a training mission.

"The technicians detonated the bomb in-place, but I was not far enough away or under cover," explained Nikolay, who studied five years to be a Russian dentist. "I heard the shrapnel fly right past my head."

Looking back at his four weeks of commissioned officer training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Nikolay said the U.S. Air Force has provided much more detailed training than when he served as a draftee in the Russian Air Force nearly 20 years ago.

For 31-year-old Zoya, dentistry has been a family occupation. Her mother was a dentist in her hometown in the suburbs of East Berlin. Her father was a former lieutenant colonel in the Russian Army, so she is no stranger to military life.

It was through Pavlov State Medical University's dentistry program in St. Petersburg, Russia, that Zoya ended up meeting her husband. Next month the couple plans to celebrate their tenth anniversary.

Shortly after getting married, the couple decided to try their luck with a lottery to get immigration consideration to the United States. When the opportunity came, the couple decided that was where they wanted to put their five years of dentistry schooling into practice. But in order

to practice dentistry in the United States, they would have to endure another three years of American schooling and recertification at New York University.

Zoya and Nikolay worked several jobs to pay for a modest apartment they rented in Brooklyn.

Zoya was the first to finish her dentistry degree through NYU's College of Dentistry and even completed the university's oral medicine honors program.

The idea of serving in the U.S. military came last year while Zoya was working a one-year residency at New York Methodist hospital.

An Air Force recruiter spoke with students in Zoya's residency program about

career opportunities.

"He looked professional and was very organized and efficient, so Nikolay and I decided to look into it," explained Nikolay.

After taking a trip to McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., the couple was ready to make a commitment to the U.S. Air Force.

"We were shocked about how nice the facilities and equipment were there," Zoya explained about her first impression of the base's dental clinic.

Nikolay also felt compelled to serve after witnessing the World Trade Center tragedy. At the time of the tragedy, Zoya had a job interview not far from Ground Zero.

"I saw the buildings collapse from where I was working in Brooklyn and I got worried about Zoya," he said. "She took the subway that ran directly underneath the World Trade Center. Luckily, her train had stopped in time."

Now, after completing four weeks of physical and mental challenges at Air University's OTS commissioned officers training course, the two captains look forward to doing what they love at their first assignment back at McGuire.

"In America there is no limit as to how far you can go," Zoya explained. "We went from being nobody to being doctors. Now we want to give something back to America." 🙏

One step closer

OTS cadets, Reservists team up for realistic AEF training

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake & Christine Harrison

Air University Public Affairs

In an effort to bring more realistic training for trainees attending Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., officials from the school coordinated with the base's C-130 Reserve unit, the 908th Airlift Wing, to conduct a deployment exercise Nov. 5.

The exercise with the 357th Airlift Squadron was the first time students from Officer Training School used an Air Force C-130 flight to simulate an expeditionary setting.

Earlier this year, the Air Staff and Air Education and Training Command challenged Officer Training School to dramatically increase the amount and realism of "expeditionary skills training" for new officers.

The basic officer trainees loaded onto the plane after processing through a mobility line.

The flight plan consisted of a takeoff, followed by a 30-minute low-level flight, an assault landing at Maxwell and an en-

gine-running offload of the trainees to their "deployed" location.

The students completed two lifts, "deploying" the entire class in under two hours. As an additional benefit, the trainees learned about Air Force Reserve forces and their contribution to the Total Force.

"All in all, the effort was a terrific success," explained Lt. Col. Hans Palaoro, commander of the 24th Training Squadron. "The 357th AS did a great job and the officer trainees got a valuable lesson in how deployments and airlift operations really work, all the while learning first hand about the total force way we employ - a perfect case in point of the type of thing Gen. [T. Michael] Moseley [chief of staff of the Air Force] talked about here (in September).

"Plus, you know, it's flying...there ought to be some flying in an Air Force officer training program. The officer trainees were totally jazzed about the

experience," he said.

OTS and 908th AW officials plan to continue the training with future classes, but it will depend on real world mission requirements for the C-130 crews.

"The nation's need for airlift resources is tremendous," explained Col. Michael Unterkofler, 908th Airlift Wing commander. "Simply put, there aren't enough Air Force aircraft and crews to fly all the required airlift missions. Every single day 908th Airlift Wing reservists are deployed all over the world, flying aeromedical evacuation, Army airdrop, counter drug, humanitarian, and many other vitally important missions. Despite the demand for our resources, supporting OTS and helping to train the next generation of Air Force officers is something we believe is equally important. The 908th AW will continue to support AFOATS and Air University as best we can for as long as they ask us." 



Training



Air Force photos/Jeff Melvin

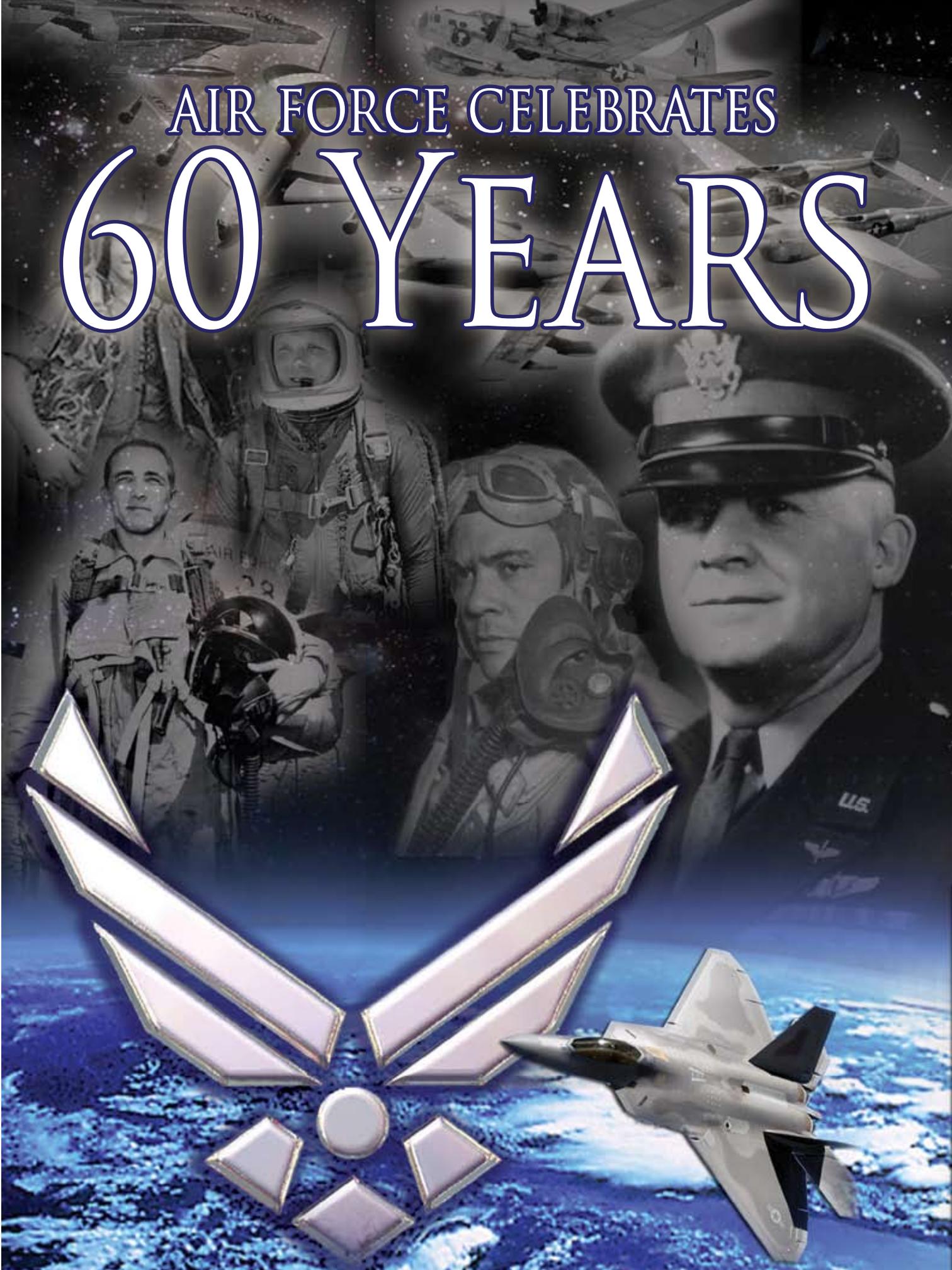


OFFLOADING: Officer Training School students unload from a 357th Airlift Squadron C-130 Hercules as part of an expeditionary training exercise at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., Nov. 5. OTS and 908th Airlift Wing officials plan to conduct similar training with future trainees as mission requirements and available manpower allows.

PERIMETER DEFENSE: Officer trainees take up defensive positions as their classmates exit the C-130 Hercules.

AIR FORCE CELEBRATES

60 YEARS



ROTC cadets celebrate Air Force's birthday

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Editor, Leader magazine

"In this day when a powerful counterattack is America's only real answer to aggression, there can be no question that we need the world's first Air Force. It is only through the global, flashing mobility of the Air Force that we can hold our counterattack poised."

The words of the Air Force's first secretary, W. Stuart Symington, shortly after the service was born on Sept. 18, 1947, still hold true today as Airmen and cadets celebrated 60 years of Air Force history.

Members of Manhattan College's ROTC Det. 560 celebrated the Air Force's birthday in front of a live TV audience on "Good Morning America," "Today" and "The Early Show."

Retired Lt. Gen. John Rosa, president of The Citadel, Charleston, S.C., joined more than 60 Air Force ROTC cadets in celebrating the service's birthday during a ceremony at the prestigious school.

"What we live for here at the Citadel -- becoming men and women of character, respecting each other and yourself and taking responsibility for your actions -- is right in line with the Air Force core values," explained the former three-star with more than 32 years experience in the Air Force. "The thing I miss most about the Air Force is the people."

Cadets from Boston University's Det. 355 celebrated the Air Force's birthday in similar fashion with a small birthday party.

"We used this opportunity to allow students to become aware of just how long the Air Force has been around and how strong we have become," explained Cadet Christine Crocker. "We had a celebration like no other. We also offered plenty of cake and fruit punch to passing students who wished to celebrate the birthday with us."

Clemson University cadets from Det. 770 paid tribute to the Air Force's birthday while commemorating the city of Clemson's first flag ceremony at the local flag park.

The cadets performed a traditional retreat ceremony after Clemson Mayor Larry Abernathy addressed the public about the historic day.



Air Force illustration/Capt. Keith Ramsdell

Retired Col. Richard Evans and Det. 765 Cadet Alexander Winton cut a cake celebrating the Air Force's 60th birthday at The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.



Air Force/Maj. John Thomas

"Today" show weatherman Al Roker wishes the Air Force a happy 60th birthday on the set of the "Today" show Sept. 18 in New York City. Airmen and cadets from Air Force ROTC Det. 560 at Manhattan College visited the show studio.

Veterans provide combat training for ROTC cadets

By Cadet Roberto Benitez

Det. 925, University of Wisconsin - Madison

More than 100 cadets from five detachments around the Midwest (Madison, Wis.; Milwaukee; Chicago; Minneapolis; and St. Paul, Minn.) came together for a joint field exercise at Volk Field, Wis., Sept. 21-23.

With combined knowledge and experience from veteran active duty Army, Air Force and National Guardsmen, the cadets received training on basic convoy procedures, base management, fire team movements and clearing houses of enemy occupants while fostering camaraderie and personal growth.

At a "forward operating base," they were trained by Guardsmen in the arts of base defense, first aid, communication, team movements and convoy procedures.

Cadets divided into groups and rotated around stations where they were taught a particular skill and given practical tests using what they learned before they could go out "beyond the wire."

With the help of two deuce-and-a-half trucks and three humvees, cadets were able to practice convoy techniques through the off road trails of Volk Field.

After initial training, the cadets were sent on a convoy mission to clear out a mock village of insurgents, but there

where more challenges ahead.

Cadets in the convoy were attacked several times by a myriad of small arms fire, rocket propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices.

The attacks tested the cadet's decision making abilities under pressure and prepared them for the next mission ahead -- sweeping a mock village.

The mock village became the scene for a choreographed display of speed, technique and teamwork as cadets cleared numerous buildings of insurgents while carefully avoiding civilian casualties.

"The only way it could have been more realistic was to have real guns and real terrorists," said Cadet Nate Williams, Det. 295 - University of Wisconsin - Madison.

"The fast paced and chaotic environment during the mock village exercise really took me by surprise and was extremely difficult at first," explained Cadet Dan Zierath, Det. 410 - University of St. Thomas, Minn., "but with the help of the veterans we really learned how to adjust and lead through constant pressure and changes. They really pressed home how important it is to be on your toes and always think ahead.

The combat scenarios continuously changed, which allowed each cadet to experience a different "war story" before arriving back at the forward operating base.



Courtesy art

As day turned to night, the cadets were trained with advanced night vision goggles. Not long afterward, attacks began with sporadic fire and shouts of anger and hatred from the insurgents.

The night sky was illuminated with flares and muzzle flashes while the thick pungent smoke from weapons discharged and smoke grenades hung menacingly in the air.

The final attack on the base had begun. Aggressors started their attack from the tree line using the dense vegetation as cover their advance.

Despite the unrelenting force of insurgent attacks, the cadets successfully defended the base using superior firepower, equipment, and team work.

After mounting a successful defense, the cadets were rewarded with a chance to fire M-16s, M-240s and M-249s at the combat arms training and maintenance range.

"I had a great time at the field training exercise and I really enjoyed learning how to clear buildings and defend a forward operating base," said Cadet Tim Flesch, Det. 410 - University of St. Thomas, Minn.

"The training we received from veteran NCOs was incredible," said Cadet Aaron Brooks, Det. 410 University of St. Thomas, Minn. "Their experience and insight shed a great deal of light on the dynamics of door to door combat." 🙏



Courtesy art

ROTC cadets nationwide participate in AF marathon

Compiled by
Lt. Col. Sandra Leiker
Det. 280, University of Kansas

The Air Force hosted its 11th Annual Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 15 to commemorate the Air Force's 60th anniversary as a separate military service.

The marathon started and finished at the Air Force Museum, tracing a path around historic Huffman Prairie Flying Field where the Wright Brothers mas-

tered the art of flying and trained the military's first aviators. The weather was ideal for running – with crystal blue skies and cool temperatures, and runner were treated to plenty of eye candy – including a steady stream of flyovers by Air Force aircraft.

Cadets and cadre from 17 detachments were among the 6,300 runners who participated in the various events including: a wheelchair marathon, a half-marathon, a 5k road race, a four-person marathon relay team race and the marathon itself. Detachments stretching from Virginia to Kansas represented various regions of ROTC. Fourteen relay teams joined together to finish the 26.2

mile course, while 19 teams braved the rigors of the entire course. More than 35 runners completed the 13.1 mile half-marathon.

It was Cadet Ben Bowman's first try at the four-person marathon relay but that did not stop him and his teammates from breaking the ROTC record for the event by nearly seven and a half minutes.

"It was really cool to run with members of the other branches," he said. "I look forward to next year and working harder to see what we will do, maybe we'll set another record."

Det. 650 (Ohio State) boasted the best participation, with six relay teams, four marathoners, and eight half-marathoners. 



Air Force art/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Det. 165 cadets' creativity takes them to the skies

**Story and photo
by Cadet Michael
Fountain**

Det. 165, Georgia Tech

Students walking down the hallways of Det. 165 after hours you might be startled to hear the roar of an F-15 Eagle or the sound of explosions left behind by an A-10 Thunderbolt.

But there's nothing secret going on here and nobody left the History Channel on again in the cadet lounge. These are just the sounds heard from the detachment's new flight simulator.

The flight simulator was completely engineered by cadets -- with the exception of computer software. The computer and flight controls are housed in a wood casing meant to resemble an F-16 Falcon cockpit. The flight controls include a joystick, rudders, a throttle, and a good-old-fashioned keyboard. A projector displays the computer screen on a wall in front of the cockpit.

While the detachment may lack a multi-million dollar budget to buy a certified flight simulation training program, the cadets get the job done using computer software programs: Lock On: Modern Air Combat, Microsoft Flight Simulator 2004, Falcon 4.0, and Microsoft Combat Flight Simulator on the flight simulator's computer.

To enhance the experience, cadets have added an infrared tracker simply known as "TrackIR."

According to Cadet James Hammelman, the Det.'s computer officer, the tracker "uses three infrared sources mounted on the helmet of the



Courtesy photo

Cadet James Hamelman enjoys some flying time in Det. 165's new flight simulator as (from left to right) Cadets Beth Ruby, Sajjad Abdullateef, Dwayne Booker and Sarah Gilbert watch. Cadet Hammelman is wearing part of the TrackIR System on his hat.

player to communicate with a receiver mounted in front of the player. The system relays where the player's head is in 3D space to the computer, allowing the player to simply move his or her head to change the "in-game view." This gives the player a hands-free approach to looking around in the game, and adds another realistic element to the simulator.

"Along with being a good source of entertainment to our cadets, the flight simulator serves as both a training

and a recruiting tool," explained Cadet Eric Felder, the detachment's Logistics Group commander.

Cadets use it to practice for tests like the pilot portion of the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test and the Test of Basic Aviation Skills.

Some of software is so advanced that cadets can even learn the basic functions of some Air Force aircraft weapon systems.

The flight simulator has also contributed to the detachments recruiting. Cadets have

noticed how an interest from new potential cadets touring the detachment."

While the bulk of the flight simulator is complete, Det. 165 has some future plans on how to use the simulator.

Once all the networking capabilities are prepared, the flight simulator will have multiplayer capabilities with other cadets on their computers. There are even plans to link up against Georgia Tech's rivals at the University of Georgia.

According to Cadet Richard Schanda, commander of the 165th Cadet Wing, "this will be a great way to build friendly competition and interact with our counterparts. We have already decided to order University of Georgia Bulldog stickers to put on the side of the cockpit to represent "kills" much like pilots did in World War II."

Perhaps, the greatest part of the flight simulator is that it shows how teamwork pays off. Every detail has been done completely by cadets.

The initial design was conceived by Cadet Thomas Clark and the recently commissioned 2nd Lt. Raghuram Reddy. Cadet Clark and his father built it in one weekend, while Cadets Hammelman, Felder and Schanda painted and added the hardware.

Cadet Hammelman installed the software and the TrackIR system.

"It has the potential to be built upon by every class that follows our own," said Cadet Felder. "If the next class wants to add seat cushions and actual switches to the cockpit they can. The opportunities for improvement are only bounded by the imagination of our cadets." 🧵

HISTORY LESSONS FROM THE SOURCE

Det. 150 brings life into Air Force history studies

By Maj. Jim Bodnar

Det. 150, University of Florida

The cadre staff at the University of Florida has developed a dynamic way to teach Aerospace Studies 200 to sophomore cadets through its living history program.

“Sometimes history, when they are just words on a page, can be hard to comprehend and even harder to retain,” explained Col. Hubert Griffin, Det. 150 commander.

The colonel said the advantage about Air Force history is that it is only 60 years old, which means men and women who served in the early years are still alive to tell their stories.

What started out as just a few action photos on briefing slides and video clips from movies such as *Flyboys* and *Saving Private Ryan* slowly developed into a program where students had the chance to meet with veterans from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“The detachment’s renewed emphasis on rebuilding community relations is what really set everything in mo-

tion,” said Capt. Scott Norman, Det. 150’s education officer. “The goal was to seek out local veteran’s groups and find out how we could become more involved with them and [vice versa].”

The turning point came when Colonel Griffin was invited to be a keynote speaker for the Gainesville Veteran’s Day ceremony last year. After addressing a crowd of more than a thousand people in addition to local newspaper and television coverage, the message of the unit’s mission was clear: “If you’re part of a veteran’s organization and have ties to the Air Force or Army Air Corps, we want to talk with you, get to know you and get involved with you.”

The response was overwhelming.

The Decrepid Birdmen, a group of Army Air Corps and Air Force veterans who have made it their mission to share their stories with local high school history classes, were the first ones to be hosted at the detachment.

“I was amazed that I was sitting face to face with someone who had been a prisoner of war,” said Cadet Jennifer Barkenhagen. “To hear his stories of

escape and recapture and the ensuing torture were humbling and inspiring.”

Two other group members shared what life was like on a B-17 Flying Fortress mission over Germany – one as a pilot and the other as a gunner. Another member, a P-51 Mustang fighter pilot, explained the exhilaration and fear he felt the first time he saw an enemy fighter coming straight at him.

“They were a smash hit with the cadets and it significantly added to the lesson as hoped,” explained Captain Norman. “Bringing in more guest speakers; the ones who were actually ‘there’ seems like a logical continuation of what we’ve already done.”

Most recently the detachment has hosted a Korean War Veterans Group, a Desert Storm veteran and even an active duty intelligence officer back from Operation Iraqi Freedom on his mid-tour leave.

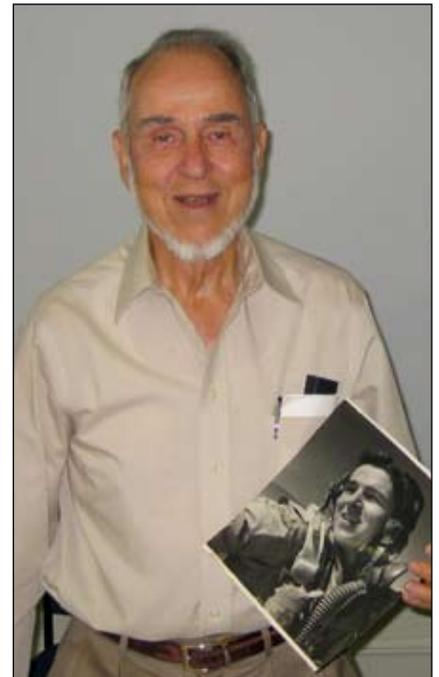
The detachment is now working with several more local groups including Vietnam veteran aviators and members of the China Burma India Veterans Association and there seems to be no shortage of volunteers. 



Courtesy photos

ARTIFACTS: Members of the Army Air Corps veterans group, The Decrepid Birdmen, brought artifacts to show cadets what life was like during World War II.

PORTRAIT: Bill Eversole, an Army Air Corps P-51 veteran pilot with The Decrepid Birdmen, shows off a portrait of himself back in his piloting days.



2007 Field Training Award

Distinguished graduates

Antonio, Rheesa
 Arey, Daniel
 Baumgarten, Brian
 Beachler, Jason
 Beckett, Rebecca
 Beene, Jeffrey
 Bell, Bradley
 Bergstrom, Evan
 Bledsoe, Kavin
 Bloomstrom, Karsten
 Boyer, Nathan
 Bradford, Michael
 Brammier, Wesley
 Brick, Philip
 Broullire, Jacob
 Brown, Afton
 Burnett, James
 Byington, Bradley
 Cachuela, Joseph
 Cady, Christopher
 Castonia, Ryan
 Chandler, Gregg
 Cherry, Kenneth
 Clinton-Cirocco, Kelly
 Cornier, Roberto
 Cost, Robert
 Cox, Michael
 Cozad, Jonathon
 Cupo, Craig
 De La Cruz, Adrian
 Deman, Alexis
 Dewey, Michael
 Doane, Casey
 Dodd, Charles
 Drahn, Shana
 Drummond, Shannyn
 Elliott, Michael
 Evans, Bret
 Ferrara, David
 Fields, Nolan
 Fountain, Michael
 Fowler, Joshua
 Franck, Roxanne
 Gehrman, Rebecca
 Gorss, Steven
 Govan, Darrin
 Grinstead, Evan (Cycle 1)
 Griffin, Mark
 Groll, Jeffrey
 Grove, Lillianne
 Habermeyer, Edward
 Hanson, Patrick
 Haverkamp, Mitchell (Cycle 1)
 Heckathorn, Andrew
 Heinbaugh, Kelly
 Hevia, Jon
 Hight, Joshua
 Hinojosa, Timothy
 Hunsinger, Christopher
 Iser, Richard



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

More than 2,300 cadets from ROTC units nationwide converged at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and Ellsworth AFB, S.D., to participate in summer field training and get one step closer toward earning their Air Force commissions.

Johnson, Shawn
 Johnson, Kaitlin
 Johnson, Sara
 Jones, Blake
 Jun, Paul
 Kavulich, George
 Kelly, Michael
 Kerasimian, Vartan
 Kiernan, Christopher
 Kirkwood, Derek
 Krazer, Jason
 Laprade, Eric
 Leenman, James
 Locke, Mason
 McCleary, Thomas
 McDaniel, Jaes
 McElwaney, Jeremy
 McGuire, Ryan
 Meyer, Melissa
 Migliaccio, Joseph
 Moenter, Andrew
 Montemayor, Isaiah
 Newkirk, Richard
 Novotny, Jordan
 Peters, Sean
 Peterson, Alexander
 Pierce, Cari

Potterbaum, Jefre
 Rak, Timothy
 Ramos, Brittany
 Rexwinkel, Kimberly
 Ristom, Michael
 Rivera, Michael
 Robin, Timothy
 Rodriguez, Carlye
 Rogers, Heather
 Sands, Danielle
 Saunders, John
 Savage, Matt
 Schwarten, Ashley
 Scott, Amber
 Seibold, Tyler
 Seymour, Brian
 Shacklett, Andrew
 Six, Timothy
 Slechta, Timothy
 Spanogle, Michael
 Spencer, Kiel
 Stalford, Matthew
 Stanton, Steven
 Stinson, Michael
 Stirland, Jason
 Stolten, Andrew
 Strassler, Garrett

Strelke, William
 Symon, Stowe
 Tagoai, Pelenato
 Taylor, Jason
 Tebo, Daniel
 Thackaberry, Timothy
 Sharp, Zachary
 Thorsen, Amanda
 Tomlin, Bryant
 Townend, Patrick
 Vail, Christopher
 Vanasse, Kyle
 Walker, Kelli
 Warren, Edward
 Washington, Alicia
 Wert, Mary
 Williams, Graeme
 Williams, Herbert
 Willis, Dominique
 Wittwer, Christopher

Barnes, Joel
 Batterman, Jeffrey
 Batterman, Ryan
 Beirne, Daniel
 Beltran, Rafael
 Benner, Christopher
 Bollinger, Christopher
 Bower, John
 Bright, Jacob
 Brimer, Christopher
 Buckley, Randy
 Burningham, Sarah
 Camarena, Miguel
 Caminero, Charday
 Carey, Dustin
 Carlson, Susan
 Carr, Autumn
 Carr, Matthew
 Carroll, Brianna
 Cofresi, Waunika
 Conrad, Noel
 Crouch, Daniel
 Curran, Michelle
 Currie, Ashley
 Daniele, Joseph
 Denton, Jonathan
 Dietz, James

Superior performers

Allen, Jacob
 Alvarez, Jose
 Anthony, Marcus

Winners (Cycle 2 & 3)

Dismuke, Allen
 Dorsey-Spitz, Brendan
 Duffy, Thomas
 Dyal, James
 Edwards, Mitchell
 Ellingsen, Michael
 Fitzgerald, Tristan
 Flores, Veronica
 Franklin, Connor
 Frost, Justin
 Gamache, Gabriel
 Gaugert, Roberta
 Gausepohl, Andrew
 Gerritz, Christopher
 Gilbert, Jenna
 Gise, Jonathan
 Godoy, Luis
 Gough, Taiisa
 Govan, Elizabeth
 Graning, Jon
 Groves, Gregory
 Hader, Brittany
 Hamilton, John
 Hammond, Tim
 Harkness, Samuel
 Heaser, Christopher
 Herbol, Alan
 Hesser, Paul
 Hoskin, Megan
 Hunt, Bradley
 Jarmon, Branden
 Johnson, Keturah
 Juel, David
 Kapes, Bryan
 Kenimer, William
 Kieffaber, Michael
 Kiggins, Ryan
 Kinney, Kyle
 Knoff, Andrew
 Kyoda, Tiffany
 Leetch, Jonathan
 Levins, Kristina
 Light, Jordan
 Liston, David
 Mackey, Kelly
 Matthews, Andrew
 Mauney, Sarah
 McIntosh, Austin
 McNamee, Christopher
 McQueen, Bryanna
 Melara, Sergio
 Merrill, Dana
 Metzger, Andrew
 Michalek, Joseph
 Miller, James
 Miller, Mary
 Miller, Samuel
 Mongeon, Travis
 Nava, Nicholas
 Nielsen, Brion
 Norrie, Robert
 O'Neill, Peter
 O'Shea, Eamonn

Olkowski, Gary
 Onstad, Katherine
 Pagan, Jorge
 Paluay, Kevin
 Peters, Phillip
 Pezzini, Christopher
 Place, Joseph
 Pontillo, Kacy
 Redding, Trevor
 Richwine, John
 Ross, Graeme
 Rudolph, Jenniferlee
 Ryan, Laura
 Salazar, Ralph
 Schilling, Adrienne
 Schubert, Erin
 Shannon, Patrick
 Shearer, Benjamin
 Shumway, Joshua
 Snow, Joshua
 Solmonson, Jeremy
 Soto, Ralph
 Spies, Sarah
 Suggs, Venise
 Talbot, Dean
 Tegeler, Matthew
 Thompson, Fleming
 Tindle, Tasia
 Tjon, Kevan
 Vanmeter, Nathan
 Vedra, Timothy
 Wareham, Rebecca
 Waterman, Samuel
 Whitmore, Ryan
 Wojtowicz, Christopher
 Wong, Adam
 Worden, Daniel
 Zemek, Joanna

Ironmen & women

Beltran, Rafael
 Carroll, Brianna
 De La Cruz, Adrian
 Gamache, Gabriel
 Gilbert, Jenna
 Grove, Lillianne
 Jacks, Nicholas
 McQueen, Bryanna

Physical fitness test

Allen, Jacob
 Beachler, Jason
 Beltran, Rafael
 Benitez, Roberto
 Benner, Christopher
 Bollinger, Christopher
 Brick, Phillip
 Burnett, James
 Byington, Bradley
 Carroll, Brianna
 Castonia, Ryan

Cherry, Kenneth
 Coffman, Benjamin
 Conrad, Noel
 Cruz, Edwin
 Daniel, Savannah
 De La Cruz, Adrian
 Deocariza, Venancio
 Fletcher, Thomas
 Redding, Trevor
 Gausepohl, Andrew
 Gilbert, Jenna
 Hanson, Patrick
 Heaser, Christopher
 Heim, Xavier
 Heiner, Michael
 Hertwig, Fred
 Jacks, Nicholas
 Jackson, Richard
 Jimenez, Luis
 Snow, Kaitlin
 Kenimer, William
 Kennedy, Joshua
 Lanser, Eric
 Layne, Aleksander
 Leman, Jordan
 Lindgren, Blake
 Liston, David
 Locke, Mason
 Metzger, Andrew
 Moenter, Andrew
 Newkirk, Richard
 Novotny, Jordan
 Ohm, Brad
 Paluay, Kevin
 Pearson, Allen
 Pegelow, Kevin
 Pinckney, Eugene
 Scholten, Brian
 Slotten, Michael
 Spencer, Kiel
 Stolten, Andrew
 Suggs, Venise
 Terranova, Frank
 Tomlin, Bryant
 Townsend, Patrick
 Trujillo, Leonard
 Van De Wege, Derek
 Ward, Dimitrius
 Welbaum, Andrew
 Yuska, Bradley

Warrior spirit test

Allen, Jacob
 Anderson, David
 Barker, Caleb
 Batterman, Ryan
 Bloomstrom, Karsten

Bracken, David
 Broullire, Jacob
 Brown, Trevor
 Burns, Ronald
 Conlon, Matthew
 Currie, Ashley
 De La Cruz, Adrian
 Deibel, David
 Dipadua, Bethany
 Dodd, Charles
 Eanett, Joseph
 Flatz, Jacob
 Folks, Matthew
 Gamboa, Raziell
 Heim, Xavier
 Heiner, Michael
 Hencker, Luis
 Hevia, Jon
 Jackson, Richard
 Juel, David
 Leetch, Jonathan
 Marrou, Jay
 Martin, Willard
 McGuire, Ryan
 Migliaccio, Joseph
 Moenter, Andrew
 O'Neill, Peter

Oyola, Elvis
 Paredes Serrano, Joseph
 Perkins, Randy
 Pimm, Gregory
 Pontillo, Kacy
 Rivera, Ryan
 Ruby, Elizabeth
 Russel, Matthew
 Ruzzin, Sarah
 Salazar, Ralph
 Santos, Lyka
 Savage, Matt
 Schmidt, Emma
 Seibold, Tyler
 Shacklett, Andrew
 Slechta, Timothy
 Smart, Raziell
 Soto, Ralph
 Stokes, Preston
 Taylor, Jason
 Tegeler, Matthew
 Tomlin, Bryant
 Trosch, Harry
 Trujillo, Leonard
 Vail, Christopher
 Ward, Dimitrius
 Whitaker, Matthew 🧡



A cadet roars out the Air Force Song during the first Prop and Wing Challenge earlier this summer at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

JUNIOR ROTC CADETS GET A PEEK DURING

Air Force Week

By Master Sgt. Stanley Coleman
94th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Master Sgt. John Shiman (left) watches fellow pararescuemen Senior Airmen Rich Boyd hoist a downed pilot into a hovering HH-60G Pavehawk helicopter. The simulated rescue was conducted during an Air Force Week Atlanta event Oct. 9 at Marietta High School in Marietta, Ga. The event taught students about the U.S. Air Force. (Air Force/Staff Sgt. Bennie Davis III)





heers, smiles and amazement – the reactions of youth dur-

ing the Atlanta Air Force Week “High School Drop-in” events, Oct. 9-11.

Three high schools, Marietta High School, Etowah High School and Lovejoy High School, hosted a show of Air Force equipment, demonstration teams, career displays, and a chance to talk to men and women, active-duty, Guard and Reserve who are committed to the defense of the United States.

“The High School Drop-in is a great opportunity to tell the Air Force story and let our youth see a sample of the Air Force in action,” said Col. Heath Nuckolls, 94th Airlift Wing commander at Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said Chief Master Sgt. William Evons, Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps aerospace instructor at Lovejoy High School. “It’s an inspiration for our youth to see demonstration teams like the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team.”

“The Air Force drill team was very impressive,” said Cadet Ashleigh Maddox, a Lovejoy High School drill team member. “Their routines were very creative and demonstrate that you don’t have to do routines at a fast pace. We got ideas for our drill team from the performance.”

The highlight of the events was a 301st Rescue Squadron pararescue demonstration with a HH-60G Pavehawk helicopter. The 301st is a Reserve unit at Patrick AFB, Fla. “With me being a prodigy of the Junior ROTC and ROTC programs, it’s a great opportunity for all of the Air Force components to come out and have one-on-one



Air Force/Master Sgt. Stanley Coleman

Marietta High School Air Force Junior ROTC Cadets (left to right) Delangel Lorena, Maria Barcnas, and Diana Quiroz cheer the helicopter pararescue demonstration by the 301st Rescue Squadron, Patrick AFB, Fla.

interactions with our young—especially at their school,” said Maj. Mike Brasher, Pavehawk helicopter pilot. “Events like our rescue demonstration are one of many exhibits that provide an up-close and personal experience for youth to see how neat military service is.”

During the event, the Pavehawk would fly over the high school, simulating a rescue operation. “We fly over and identify the location of the survivor,” said Master Sgt. Steve Johnson, 301st Rescue Squadron helicopter flight engineer. “Then we determine the wind calculation to determine the best path in.” During this step the crew looks for obstacles or threats that could hinder the rescue mission.

“If there are no threats, we come back to the survivor and lower a pararescuer via fast rope,” he said. “That’s the fastest way of getting the pararescuer to the survivor other than

landing the aircraft.”

The rope is released from the aircraft and the pararescuer preps the survivor for extraction. The aircraft exits the area and aircrew is prepared to suppress any threats, should they pop up. The aircraft returns to extract the PJ. (PJ is an old acronym for parajumper.) The Pavehawk aircrew consists of two pilots, one flight engineer, and two pararescuemen.

“In this demonstration we used a hoist,” said Sergeant Johnson. “That’s they only way we can complete the rescue mission if we can’t land.”

The rescue demonstration was well-received with applause, cheers and a bombardment of youth with questions after the helicopter landed.

“I’m enjoying this because I was already inspired to join the Air Force,” said Diamond Cattrell, a student who attended the drop-in event at Marietta High

School. “Now after looking at all of the benefits that the Air Force has to offer, I really want to join.”

“The High School Drop-in is not a recruiting effort, it is more of an educational event to let our high school youth see what the Air Force has to offer,” said Retired Lt. Col. James T. Wilson, senior aerospace instructor at Marietta High School. “Plus, the Junior ROTC experience emphasizes and works hard to develop leadership and discipline. Junior ROTC provides a true vision on what citizenship is all about.”

Other exhibits and static displays include a team from 94th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, the Air Force Race Car, a miniature C-130 called Lil Bill, the 94th Civil Engineering Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, and a self-defense demonstration by the 94th Security Forces Squadron. 

Strutting their **STUFF**

Junior ROTC units square off during Southeastern competition

(Left) Air Force Junior ROTC Cadet LaKease Bibb from Prattville High School, renders a salute during the unarmed exhibition competition of the Junior ROTC American Legion Southeast Regional Finals in Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 3. More than 30 units representing all military services participated in the event. (Air Force/Jennifer Duncan)



Air Force/Jennifer Duncan

Air Force cadets from Monroe Area High School, Ga., march in formation during the armed exhibition competition. Air Force units placed in several categories of the event, but Marine Corps cadets from North Forsyth High School, Ga., took the overall title with more than 10 awards.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Patrick Parson, an Army Junior ROTC cadet from Griffin High School, Ga., twirls an M-4 rifle during the dual armed exhibition competition. Cadets Parson and Brett Prieskorn took second place in the competition.



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Junior ROTC units stretching from Mississippi to Georgia participated in more than 20 different categories of competition including inspection, regulation, color guard, knock out and a new fitness test consisting of situps, pushups and a two-mile run.



MA-771 honors Veterans Day

Air Force photos by Mark Wyatt

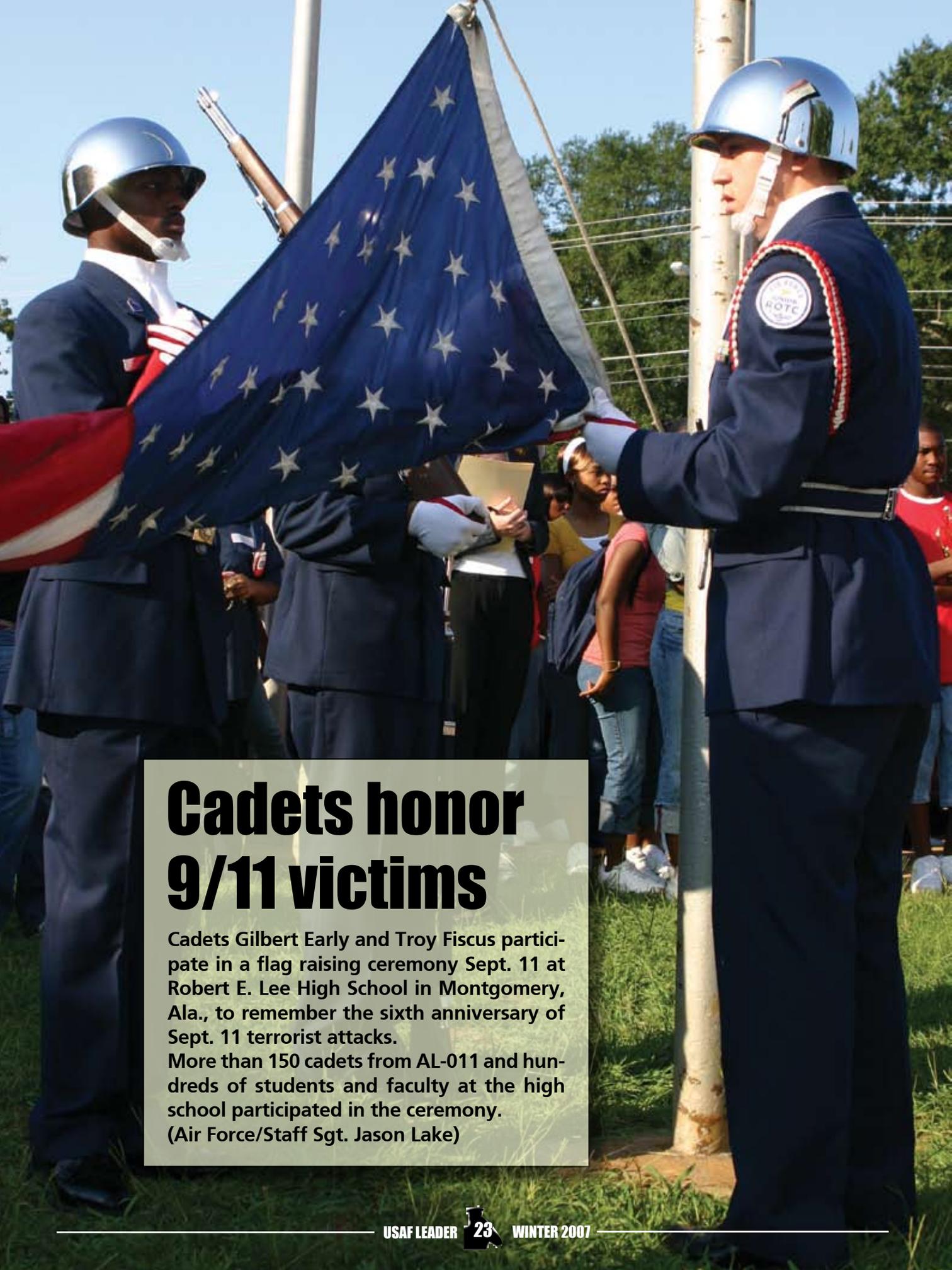
From right, Air Force Junior ROTC MA-771 cadets Victoria Vann, Sasha Gonzales and Yomara Ramirez render salutes during the playing of the National Anthem at a Veterans Day remembrance ceremony at Lowell High School in Lowell, Mass., Nov. 8. MA-771 has the third largest Junior ROTC program in the nation.



TAPS: Master Sgt. Dave Arnold, Air Force Band of Liberty, plays Taps to honor fallen veterans during a Veterans Day remembrance event at Lowell High School in Lowell, Mass. Cadets from MA-771 achieved a milestone of 20,444 hours of community service for the 2006-2007 school year and more than 50,000 hours over the last four years. The unit has presented the colors during the Major League Baseball's World Series in 2004 and 2007. Additionally, the MA-771 drill team has won first place honors in Greater New England Drill League competitions 12 years in a row.

SALUTE: Cadet Francis Leon (right), a MA-771 cadet, posts the U.S. flag while Tech. Sgt. Mike Dodge, 66th Air Base Wing, renders a salute.





Cadets honor 9/11 victims

Cadets Gilbert Early and Troy Fiscus participate in a flag raising ceremony Sept. 11 at Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, Ala., to remember the sixth anniversary of Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

More than 150 cadets from AL-011 and hundreds of students and faculty at the high school participated in the ceremony.

(Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake)

DEFENDING THE HOMELAND

OTS graduate shares homeland defense experience with students

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Air University Public Affairs

No service or nation can operate independently in [today's] global environment.

That was the key message from U.S. Northern Command's top official during a visit to Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., Sept. 20.

"We've got to find ways to take advantage of our sister services and benefit from what other nations bring to the fight," explained Gen. Victor Renuart Jr., North American Aerospace Defense Command and USNORTHCOM commander, who shared his command experience with field grade officers attending Air Command and Staff College and flag officers attending the Joint Flag Officer Warfighting Course at Air University.

"Understanding how this comes to fruition is important for the students here to understand, especially at this point in their careers," explained the pilot who flew combat missions during Operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch and Northern Watch.

The general's visit came on the hinges of



Air Force graphic art/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

USNORTHCOM Commander General Victor Renuart recently spoke with Air University students about his role in the Global War on Terrorism and how cooperation between federal agencies and the military have improved homeland security.

USNORTHCOM's fifth anniversary Oct. 1.

"We're no longer a new command," explained General Renuart. "The command grew out of the ashes of 9/11... and we've made huge progress in the past five years."

On a typical day, General Renuart said he interacts with all five military services, including the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as Total Force contributors in the National Guard and Reserves. In addition, USNORTHCOM also coordinates homeland defense efforts with more than 45 government agencies including the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Central Intelligence Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that tracks hurricanes and tornados.

"We're completely integrated in our planning efforts," he explained. "This is a capability that is not replicated in any other command. While we're not primary responders in most circumstances, it's still important that we learn how to be facilitators and gain the experience of planning and executing complex operations with joint, coalition and governmental agencies."

The former Officer Training School graduate applauded his two predecessors, Gen. Ralph Eberhart and Navy Adm. Timothy J. Keating, for laying the groundwork before he took over last March. As the third USNORTHCOM commander, General Renuart said his role is to project the command's emergency response capabilities into the future based on lessons learned from various real world events such as 9/11, Hurricane Katrina and the recent Minnesota interstate bridge collapse.

"We've focused our mission requirements to anticipate scenarios rather than responding to situations as they occur," he explained. "That way, we have emergency response capabilities in-place before a disaster instead of three days after the incident."

General Renuart said it's crucial for ACSC students and field grade officers to experience both the joint and operational environments so they know how to respond at higher levels when a plan starts to "break down in execution."

"They will have to think and respond quickly and appropriately and make the right judgments when the time comes to deviate from the plan," he said. 



Gen. Victor Renuart

Air Force art by Staff Sgt. Austin May



FIELD REPORT!

Deployed duty title:

Electronic combat officer and deployed electronic support team lead

Deployed location:

Southwest Asia

Home station:

Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Years of service:

7 years

Hometown:

Williamsburg, Va.

Air Force school graduated:

Graduated from University of Virginia in 1999 before earning ROTC commission in 2000.

Deployment experience:

I deployed to Turkey during Operation Iraqi Freedom and have spent four months in Southwest Asia for OIF/Operation Enduring Freedom.

How is the field environment different than home station operations?

Although the climate in field environments provide challenges to

operations away from home station, doing the job is actually so much easier because you have none of the home-station distractions. You can concentrate solely on flying and fighting. In a lot of ways, a great deal of pressure is relieved when you're operating in a deployed environment.

What has been the biggest challenge at your current location?

The biggest challenge in this location is adjusting to the heat and humidity. The temperatures are more draining than I imagined - eventually you become acclimatized, but I don't know that I'll ever get used to sweating this much.

What advice do you have for future Air Force officers?

Enjoy your ROTC experience - learn everything you can about officership, leadership and followership and Air Force history



Capt. Christina Vile

while you have the most dedicated instructors in the world at your fingertips. Take the lessons you learn as a cadet to heart and apply them once you're a second lieutenant. Don't be afraid to ask for help. You can never know everything, so ask those who've gone before you. The best officers recognize their weaknesses and find others with those strengths.

How did ROTC prepare you for life in the Air Force?

The Air Force will teach you how to do your job, but the foundations of personal accountability and reliability are established long before you finish your technical school. I had the best mentors in my ROTC detachment and I still keep in touch with them. They taught me to trust myself, hold myself to a higher standard and demand the best, both from myself and those around me. 

McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey



Mission: The 305th Air Mobility Wing's mission is to provide responsive, combat-ready mobility and expeditionary capability for America.

Type, number of aircraft: McGuire is home for more than 30 KC-10 Extenders and a dozen of both the C-17 Globemaster III and KC-135.

Major units: As a tri-service installation, McGuire hosts six major units including the 305th Air Mobility Wing, the 514th Air Mobility Wing, the 108th Air Refueling Wing, the 21st Expeditionary Mobility Task Force, the Air Force Expeditionary Center and the 621st Contingency Response Wing.

Personnel Assigned: More than 16,000 DoD civilians, contractors, servicemembers and dependents.

Nearest city & population: Wrightstown is just outside the gate with more than 3,500 residents.

Recreation: The base's central location in the Northeast provides travelers the opportunity to see big cities such as Philadelphia, New York City and Atlantic City - all within 100 miles.

Factoid: John Levitow, the airman first class who received the Medal of Honor, started his career at McGuire.

What can a young officer get out of this assignment? The base's motto, "Can Do," swells in the hundreds of combat sorties flown since 9/11; the nearly 1,000 combat deployers sent into harms way over the last six months; and thousands of trained warriors that stand ready to answer the nation's call at a moment's notice.

Website: www.mcguire.af.mil



BASE OF PREFERENCE



Keep on truckin'

Members of the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron at Ali Air Base, Iraq, pull a Humvee during warrior day. The monthly competition tests Airmen's abilities to handle physically and mentally challenging situations. (Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Robert Valencia)

