

U.S. AIR FORCE

LEADER



Fall 2007 Vol. 30, Issue 1



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Cadets complete inaugural challenge

Plus...

Honor camp

Iraqi OTS established

Cadets in India

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Air Force/Master Sgt. Stanley Coleman

U.S. AIR FORCE LEADER

A PRODUCT OF AIR FORCE OFFICER ACCESSION AND TRAINING SCHOOLS

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On the cover...



Cadet Gavin Brawley encourages fellow cadets while performing pushups July 17 during the Props and Wings Challenge at Maxwell Air

Force Base, Ala. (Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake)

From the TOP

Commander looks back at successful year, prepares for upcoming challenges

By Brig. Gen. Alfred Flowers

Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools commander

Another academic year has come and gone. We applaud the accomplishments of our staff, cadets and officer trainees.

This past academic year (August 2006-August 2007), we commissioned more than 2,400 new bright and promising future Air Force leaders through Officer Training School (Basic Officer Training) and Air Force ROTC, and more than 1,000 commissioned officers (lawyers, doctors, chaplains, etc.). We furthered our goal of creating leaders and citizens of character through the Air Force Junior ROTC program with the unprecedented activation of 75 new units. There are currently 869 units with more than 105,000 students enrolled.

We have come a long way. In February 1997, three of the Air Force's leadership training programs, ROTC, OTS, and Junior ROTC, were joined together to create what is now the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools. This past spring, AFOATS celebrated its tenth anniversary.

Over the past 10 years, more than 22,000 college students and 11,000 basic officer trainees have been commissioned through ROTC and OTS respectively. Additionally, more than 14,500 medical professionals, chaplains and legal officers have been trained through OTS's commissioned and reserve commissioned officer training programs.

In fiscal year 2007, AFOATS commissioned approximately 75 percent of the Air Force's officers – truly a total force contributor.

The AFOATS mission is constant, even during the summer months. This past summer, 2,300 ROTC cadets attended six separate field training camps – three at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., and three at Ellsworth AFB, S.D. Upon graduation from field training, these cadets are officially members of the Professional Officer Corps.

Approximately 400 staff members and cadet training assistants dedicated numerous hours training these cadets and ensuring they mastered the necessary skills for entrance into the POC. Being in the POC is a tremendous accomplishment; it signifies that you are standing at the threshold of becoming an Air Force leader. We don't take this training lightly; the military profession expects nothing short of excellence. Military members are held to a very high standard. Be proud of what you are doing... a lot of other people certainly are.

The summer timeframe proved to be an extremely busy time for

OTS and Junior ROTC as well. OTS trained more than 900 energized new officers (basic officer training and commissioned officer training combined), and students from nearly 350 Junior ROTC units attended Summer Leadership Schools, with approximately 4,000 students in attendance... great job by all!

As we move into the upcoming school year, AFOATS will embark on an enormous journey. We continue steering the plan to provide a "shared common experience" between ROTC and OTS – with the Officer Training Center of Excellence.

By the summer of 2009, all ROTC field training will be conducted at Maxwell. Although there will be no new units established this school year (only replacement units), there is further growth on the horizon for the Junior ROTC program. The program is currently slated to expand to 955 units.

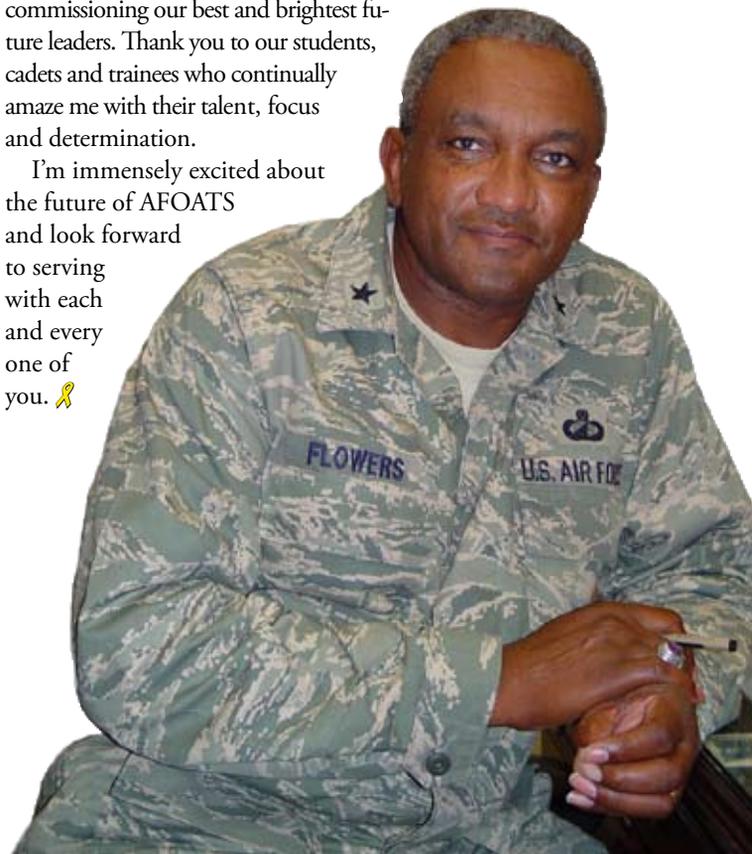
The AFOATS mission will remain the same: "Develop the best Air Force leaders and citizens of character, dedicated to serving the nation." However, our immediate future is the reality of Air Force downsizing and it affects us all. As we downsize, we must focus on the most effective and efficient ways of producing future leaders. Our task at hand is to do what we do, in the best manner we can.

Aristotle said, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence therefore is not an act, but a habit." Don't use "average" to define excellence. Make excellence your habit.

As we go through our daily tasks and dealings, let's not forget one word — professionalism. Be professional in all of your dealings. Treat everyone you interact with on a daily basis (fellow students, faculty and staff) with dignity and respect. I expect nothing less.

I never pass up the opportunity to say thank you for what you do. Thank you to the staff, who prides themselves on training and commissioning our best and brightest future leaders. Thank you to our students, cadets and trainees who continually amaze me with their talent, focus and determination.

I'm immensely excited about the future of AFOATS and look forward to serving with each and every one of you. 



STRESS

Don't Let it Control You



By Staff Sgt. Connie Bias

92nd Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs Office

FAIRCHILD AIR FORCE BASE, Wash. -- Your air expeditionary force cycle is coming up. You just received permanent change-of-station orders. An exercise is around the corner and you still need to prep for the Unit Compliance Inspection.

And that's just work. Add a home life, and your demands and stressors seem endless.

It's impossible to eliminate everyday stress factors from our lives, and particularly stressful situations or time periods can easily become overwhelming, even to the point of being debilitating. These stress factors aren't necessarily negative -- positive life changes like marriage, having children or buying a new home cause a stress that is healthy or fulfilling, called eustress. In the end, though, it's still stress, and you're starting to feel like you have no control over that stress.

It may be time to step back, take a look at your life and its contributing stressors, and take control.

"We talk about four R's when dealing with stress: Recognizing the signs and symptoms of stress, relaxation, reassuring thinking and relat-

ing assertively," said Capt. (Dr.) Lisa Selthon, the 92nd Medical Group mental health chief and clinical psychologist. "As with anything, you need to be able to recognize that you're stressed before you can take action, and the last three are reactions to that realization."

Recognizing stress may seem like an easy step, but when it comes to military life, sometimes people become so accustomed to stressful norms that some may not acknowledge the amount of stress being carried.

"In the military, there are stressors associated with everyday life that, if not put in check, can lead to an overload," Captain Selthon said. "For instance, if we typically work 40 hours per week, an exercise that suddenly forces us to work 60 hours per week can often cause stress."

Add those types of extended work hours to regular moves around the world, rising deployment rates, a family that also needs time, etc., and a person has a sure recipe for stress.

That's where the last three R's come in handy as tools to manage your stress effectively.

First, take time to relax. "Yeah, right," you say. If you had the time you'd take it, right?

Well, if you're finding that you have absolutely no time to give yourself a break, you may need to rethink your schedule

and drop some of your activities.

"Be assertive with people about what you're able to do, what you can realistically get done in a day or a week," said Captain Selthon, adding that a healthy schedule is really a balancing act. While you don't want to isolate yourself through total withdrawal, you also "don't want to be working too much and then be involved in so many extra-curricular activities that it makes you feel overwhelmed."

The doctor also said that exercise could be a great stress reliever, along with its other healthy lifestyle benefits.

"When you exercise, your body produces a natural antidepressant and an anti-anxiety response. It gets those endorphins flowing and helps to regulate your appetite and metabolism," said Captain Selthon. "It's also common when you're stressed to feel that you're too tired to work out or that you don't have enough time to go to the gym. Those are actually the times you need to be working out even more; it's going to help you feel like you have more energy to combat the stressors in your life."

Building a social network like friends, family and even professional assistance through a chaplain or mental health

professional; getting enough sleep and eating healthy foods; pre-planning for known upcoming stressful periods like base exercises or deployments; and maintaining a positive outlook are also powerful aids for overcoming stress.

"Being able to moderate your self talk is highly important," Captain Selthon said. "Choosing to have a positive attitude isn't supposed to be Pollyanna, where you're looking at everything through rose-colored glasses. But if you go through your day or week or life with very alarming and negative thinking, 'It's never going to get better ... I can't handle it ... Nobody understands me,' then you are going to feel bad, and that's going to be your emotional outcome. Negative self talk will leave you with feelings of negative self worth, frustration, irritability, and even anger and depression if it's not dealt with."

The wingman concept is also a stress aid that cannot be overrated. Taking the time to notice and interact with fellow Airmen, and offering a listening ear or helping hand when they're down or over-stressed, may be their saving grace. As a military family, everyone can also encourage military and family members to live healthy lifestyles, remind them that everyone is going through this life together, and help to brighten their outlooks on stressful situations.

If stress has morphed into uncontrollable anger or depression in you or someone you know, you're not alone. Psychologists, social workers, chaplains, first sergeants and supervisors are available to help and guide you through stressful situations.

When stress starts to build, you have the tools to control it.

Tech. Sgt. Larry W. Carpenter Jr. of the 92nd Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Office contributed to this story. 



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo

Cyberspace operations

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — Capt. Jason Simmons and Staff Sgt. Clinton Tips update anti-virus software for Air Force units to assist in the prevention of cyberspace hackers. The Air Force Cyberspace Command mission is to provide combat-ready forces, trained and equipped to conduct sustained offensive and defensive operations. To fully integrate cyber with air and space operations, the command will leverage, consolidate, and integrate Air Force cyber capabilities and functions, creating synergies among organizations and teaming more effectively with the joint community. For more Air Force News, visit www.af.mil.

Air Force signs multi-year contract for F-22 Raptors

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials signed a production contract with Lockheed Martin Corp. to add 60 F-22 Raptors to the Air Force inventory by December 2011.

The multiyear contract for the fifth-generation fighters will save the Air Force \$411 million compared to a traditional annual procurement program of three separate, single-year contracts for 20 aircraft.

Guam hosts major joint exercise

ANDERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Guam — Aircraft from various Air Force bases throughout the Pacific theater recently tested their combat skills with sister services during Valiant Shield last month.

The exercise included 30 ships, 280 aircraft and more than 20,000 servicemembers

from the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

General testifies on in-lieu-of strategies

WASHINGTON — An Air Force general spoke before the House Armed Service Committee Subcommittee on Readiness July 31 about the state of in-lieu-of taskings Airmen fill for the Army.

Brig. Gen. Marke Gibson, the Air Force director of operations, answered questions for the subcommittee, reaffirming the service's commitment to the war on terrorism.

"Of the 25,453 Airmen deployed right now, 6,293 of them are filling ILO taskings," explained General Gibson. "Since 2004, we have deployed roughly 22,000 Airmen to perform ILO tasks."

Over the last few years, the number of Airmen filling ILO deployment taskings has increased 33 percent, up to 57 percent this year. General Gibson also expects ILO deployments to increase this year.

Air Force takes gold, silver at triathlon

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY-POINT MUGU, Calif. — The Air Force women's triathlon team took first and the men's team second at the 2007 Armed Forces Triathlon Championship held July 25 to 29. The results are based on the raw scoring times of the men's top eight and women's top four competitors.

The Armed Forces Championship is an Olympic distance course comprising a 1,500 meter swim, 40 kilometer bicycle route and 10 kilometer run. 

School briefs

Former cadet arranges visit to Capitol Hill (JROTC)

WASHINGTON — More than 30 cadets from Sumter High School visited Capitol Hill with the help of Geoff Embleer, a former cadet who now serves as the press secretary for Texas Senator Kay Hutchinson.

The cadets also had the opportunity to see the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and Museum of Natural

History as well as the U.S. Holocaust Memorial.

PA-771 presents the colors (JROTC)

PHILADELPHIA — Cadets from Coatesville Senior High School's PA-771 presented the colors during the annual National Education Association convention here July 2.

More than 10,000 educators world-

wide attended the event including distinguished guests such as Senators Hillary Clinton and Barak Obama.

SC-951 cadets excel at Cadet Officer Leadership School (JROTC)

NEWBERRY, S.C. — Out of 130 cadets from schools throughout the Southeast, Zachary Simmons was named the best male cadet and received a \$20,000 scholarship during the Newberry College Cadet Officer Leadership School June 16.

Cadet Simmons and 13 other cadets from SC-951 participated in the week-long program that aims to build leadership, discipline and academic excellence through various competitions and training sessions.

Other award winners include cadets Casselle Ball and Nicole Martin, who were recognized as the outstanding echo flight cadet and outstanding performer during personal inspection, respectively.

Det. 150 hosts joint pass-in-review (ROTC)

Gainesville, Fla. — For the first time in six years, cadets from University of Florida's Det. 150 participated in a joint service pass-in-review last spring.

Looking back on his early morning experience with the Army, Navy and Marine Corps counterparts, Cadet Kuang Huang said there were some challenging moments, but everyone pulled together and put on a picture perfect performance.

"When it finally came time for the parade and we marched past the reviewing stand, we nailed it," he said. "I seriously believe that the video of this performance could be used as a demonstration video on how to perform a pass-in-review. It was that good."

Afterward, Cadet Huang said his detachment commander, Colonel Hubert Griffin applauded the cadets saying: "There's no other color I'd rather be wearing right now than blue."

Continued on next page



Courtesy photo

Leadership lessons

Junior ROTC Cadet Torry McPherson, from MO-851 at University City High School, gets inspected by Staff Sgt. Erin Ohlemacher, an Airman Leadership School instructor, during a visit to Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Sixteen cadets from the unit visited the base from July 9-13 as part of their 40-hour advanced leadership course sponsored by Gateway Institute of Technology High School in St. Louis, Mo. Cadets joined students from Airman Leadership School to witness a military funeral ceremony and also received flight instruction through the base's Aero Club.

School briefs

Det. 205 trains with help from combat veterans (ROTC)



CARBONDALE, Ill. — More than 60 cadets from Southern Illinois University and Southeast Missouri State University got a taste of combat experience when they participated in a field training exercise supervised by five Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans.

The cadets got first-hand experience in self-aid buddy care, land navigation, hand-to-hand combat and a chance to don the chemical warfare protective suits. The combat veterans also shared lessons learned on unexploded ordnance and convoy duty procedures.

“Like all war plans, we learned that no plan survives the first shot,” explained Cadet Peter Densmore. “From having to move the exercise tent due to heavy rainfall to finding out that the first tent didn’t have all the necessary pieces, we learned to adapt and still accomplish [the mission].”

Det. 752 kicks off NASCAR race (ROTC)

LONG POND, Pa — Cadets from Det. 752 at Wilkes University opened the Pocono NASCAR 500 race last month with a color guard presentation in front of more than 135,000 fans including Gen. Peter Pace, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Lt. Gen. John Regni, Air Force Academy superintendent and Chris Tucker, who stars in the new movie, *“Rush Hour 3.”*

“It wasn’t until we were on Victory



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Honoring a fallen soldier

More than 40 cadets from Cleveland High School’s TX-200011 participated in a dedication ceremony Feb. 26 to rename Cleveland’s post office in honor of a fallen soldier and former student of Cleveland High School, Lance Cpl. Robert Martinez. The ceremony included a flyover by two F-16 Falcons from the 147th Fighter Wing and TAPS by the TX-200011 cadets.

Lane that we realized this was not going to be a normal honor guard event,” explained Adam Mann. “With cameras rolling, we were preparing for the live coast to coast broadcast. Failure was not an option.”

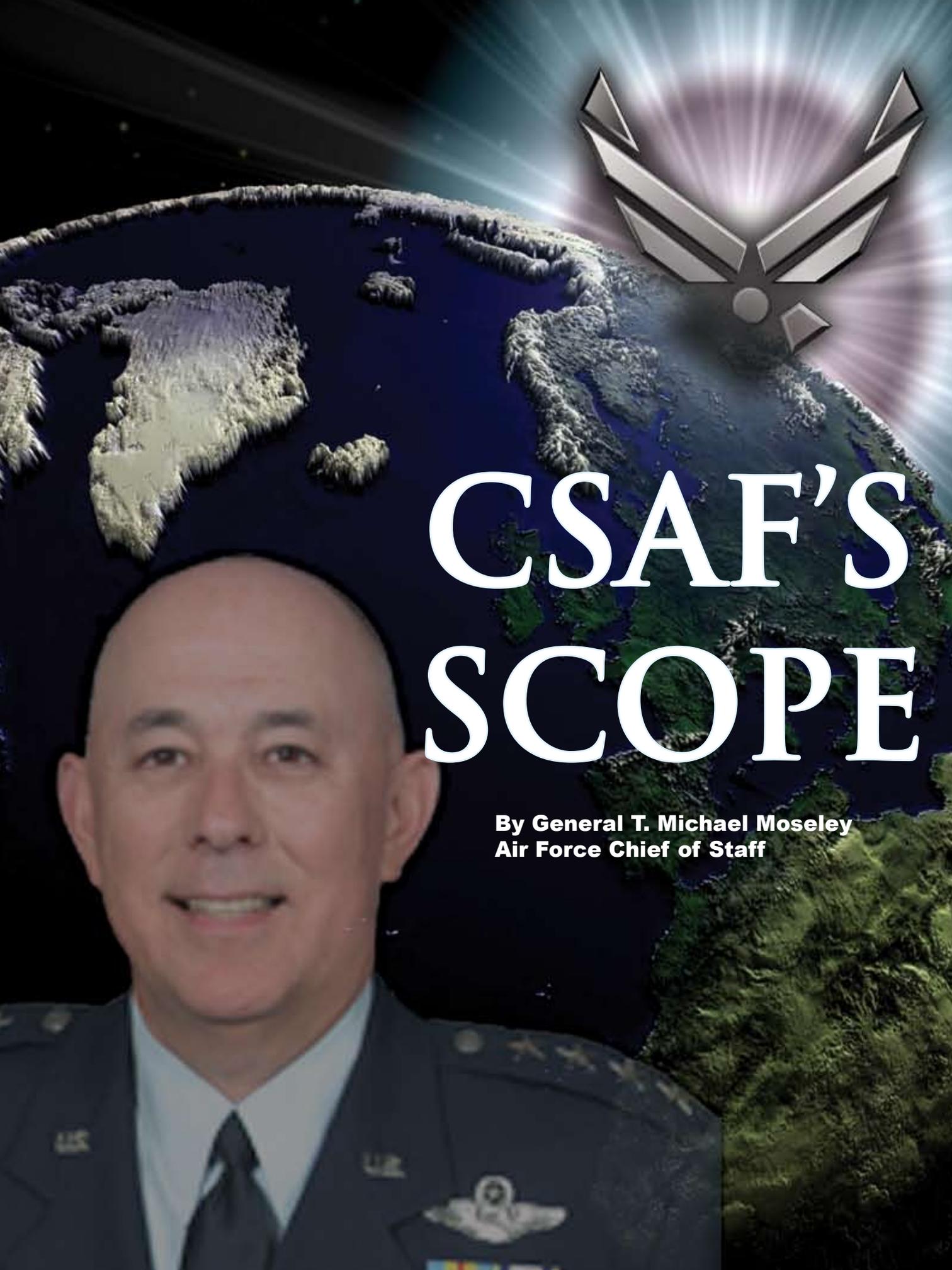
Cadets get feet wet for training (ROTC)

LOGAN, Utah — Cadets from Det. 860, Utah State University got into the

pool for the sake of water survival training earlier this spring.

Senior Airman Arthur Logan from nearby Hill Air Force Base’s 388th Operations Support Squadron, taught the cadets how to handle a parachute while ejecting over water and how to use a self-inflating raft afterwards.

“It seemed the best tactic they taught us was not drowning,” Cadet Timothy Shuck said jokingly. 



CSAF'S SCOPE

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

AIRMAN'S CREED AND TEST

I hope you have seen our new Airman's Creed. It replaces all the various specialized creeds we had been using, getting to the core of what an Airman believes. When you read it, reflect on the creed's elements: Warrior, Heritage, Honor, and Valor, just to name a few. Also consider what you are pledging to do when you recite the creed – Guard and Defend; serve

as a Sentry and an Avenger; never Falter or Fail; and be a Wingman, Leader, and Warrior. The Airmen who served before us gave us this legacy, and it is our duty and privilege to continue this tradition. Internalizing this Airman's Creed will help all of us live up to that lofty standard.

I also sent you an Airman's Test, which gives you a chance to assess your position in the Air Force flight. I am confident you will answer "Yes" to most, if not all, of the questions, showing that you and I agree about what it means to be an Airman today. We both appreciate my renewed emphasis on our warfighting heritage, my highlighting of the many roles Airmen conduct in combat today, and my efforts to deepen and broaden our

Airmen's warfighting ethos.

If you answered "No" to these questions I need you to get back in formation quickly. Work with your supervisor, First Sergeant, or Commander to develop a flight plan that steers you back into position as an Airman in today's Air Force. Now more than ever we need each and every Airman to be a combat-ready and expeditionary air power advocate.

As you can probably tell, I am excited about our new Airman's Creed and the direction our Air Force is heading. We are a special breed, with discipline, courage, innovation, flexibility, and honor stamped in our DNA. I am proud to have you on my wing.

Fly, Fight, and Win! 

AIRMAN'S TEST

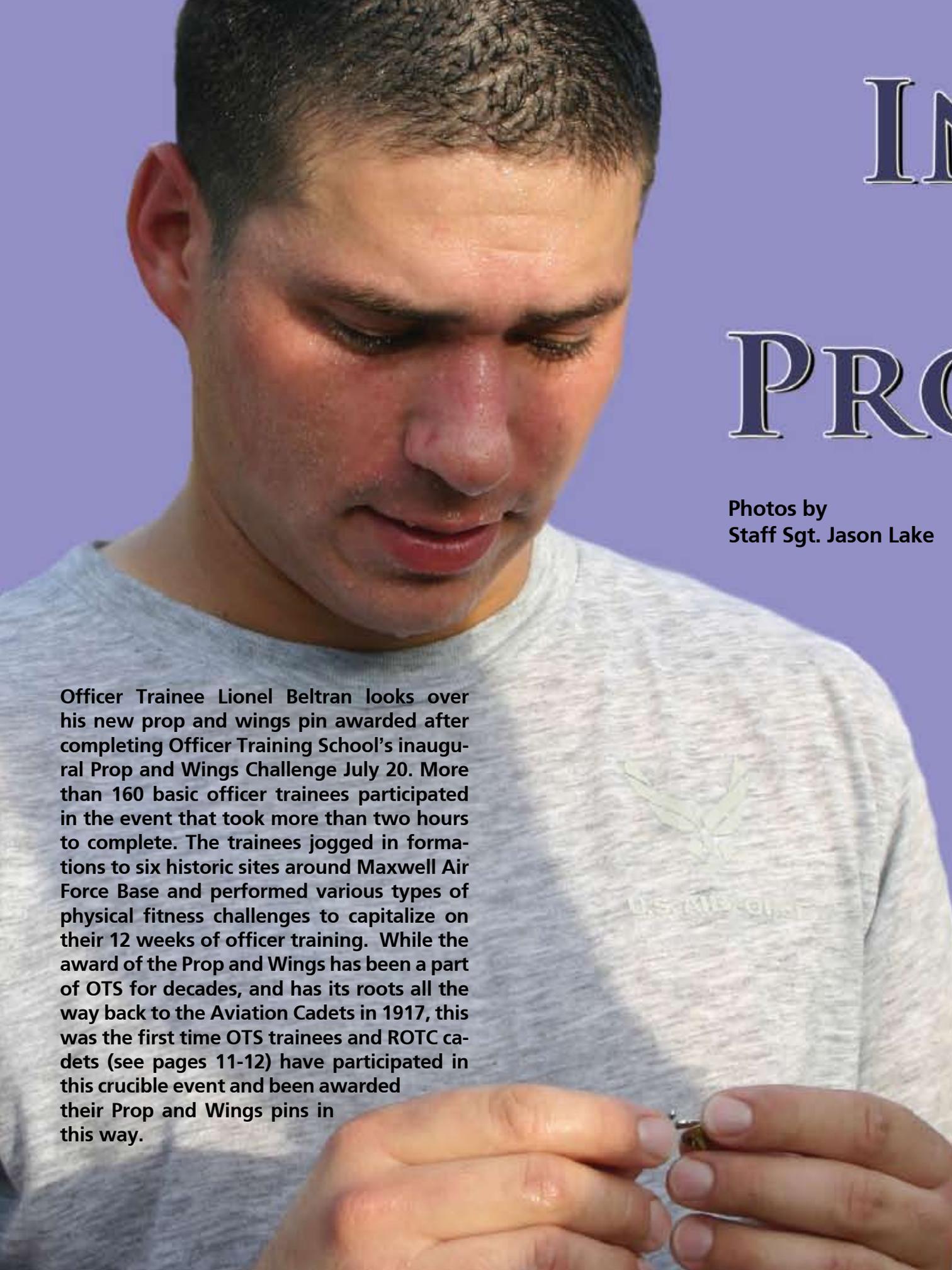
Take a moment and reflect on what you think it means to be an Airman today. How do you feel about the following ten statements? If you agree with these statements, you'll like where I am leading our Air Force. You'll appreciate the renewed emphasis on our warfighting heritage and my constant highlighting of the many roles Airmen play in combat today. You'll understand how imperative it is for us to take care of our most treasured asset – our Airmen – while we re-capitalize and modernize our aging air and space inventories now to ensure our future combat capability. And you'll appreciate our efforts to deepen and broaden our Airmen's warfighting ethos.

1. Our mission is to fly, fight and win in three warfighting domains: air, space and cyberspace.
2. We are a seamless Total Force composed of Active Duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Air Force Civilians.
3. Being an "American Airman" has nothing to do with a person's rank, AFSC, or uniform of the day.
4. American Airmen live by the core values of Integrity, Service, and Excellence.
5. American Airmen are warriors who play decisive roles in defending our Nation, its ideals and interests.
6. American Airmen are disciplined, agile, combat-focused and expeditionary.
7. American Airmen are heirs to a rich heritage of valor, honor and sacrifice displayed at places like St. Mihiel, Regensburg-Schweinfurt, Ploesti, the Berlin Airlift corridor, MiG Alley, the Than Hoa Bridge, the Hanoi Hilton, Belgrade, Roberts' Ridge and Baghdad.
8. American air power history is built on the heroic foundation of such legendary units as the Lafayette Escadrille, Eagle Squadrons, Flying Tigers, Doolittle Raiders, Tuskegee Airmen, Jolly Green Giants and Air Commandos.
9. American Airmen want and deserve to be the best trained force in the world, schooled from basic training through every level of PME on the value of air, space and cyberspace power.
10. American Airmen can articulate and should defend the criticality of the Air Force to today's and tomorrow's fights. 

AIRMAN'S CREED

**I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
I AM A WARRIOR.
I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.
I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,
A TRADITION OF HONOR,
AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.
I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.
I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND,
I WILL NEVER FALTER,
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.**





IN

PRO

Photos by
Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Officer Trainee Lionel Beltran looks over his new prop and wings pin awarded after completing Officer Training School's inaugural Prop and Wings Challenge July 20. More than 160 basic officer trainees participated in the event that took more than two hours to complete. The trainees jogged in formations to six historic sites around Maxwell Air Force Base and performed various types of physical fitness challenges to capitalize on their 12 weeks of officer training. While the award of the Prop and Wings has been a part of OTS for decades, and has its roots all the way back to the Aviation Cadets in 1917, this was the first time OTS trainees and ROTC cadets (see pages 11-12) have participated in this crucible event and been awarded their Prop and Wings pins in this way.

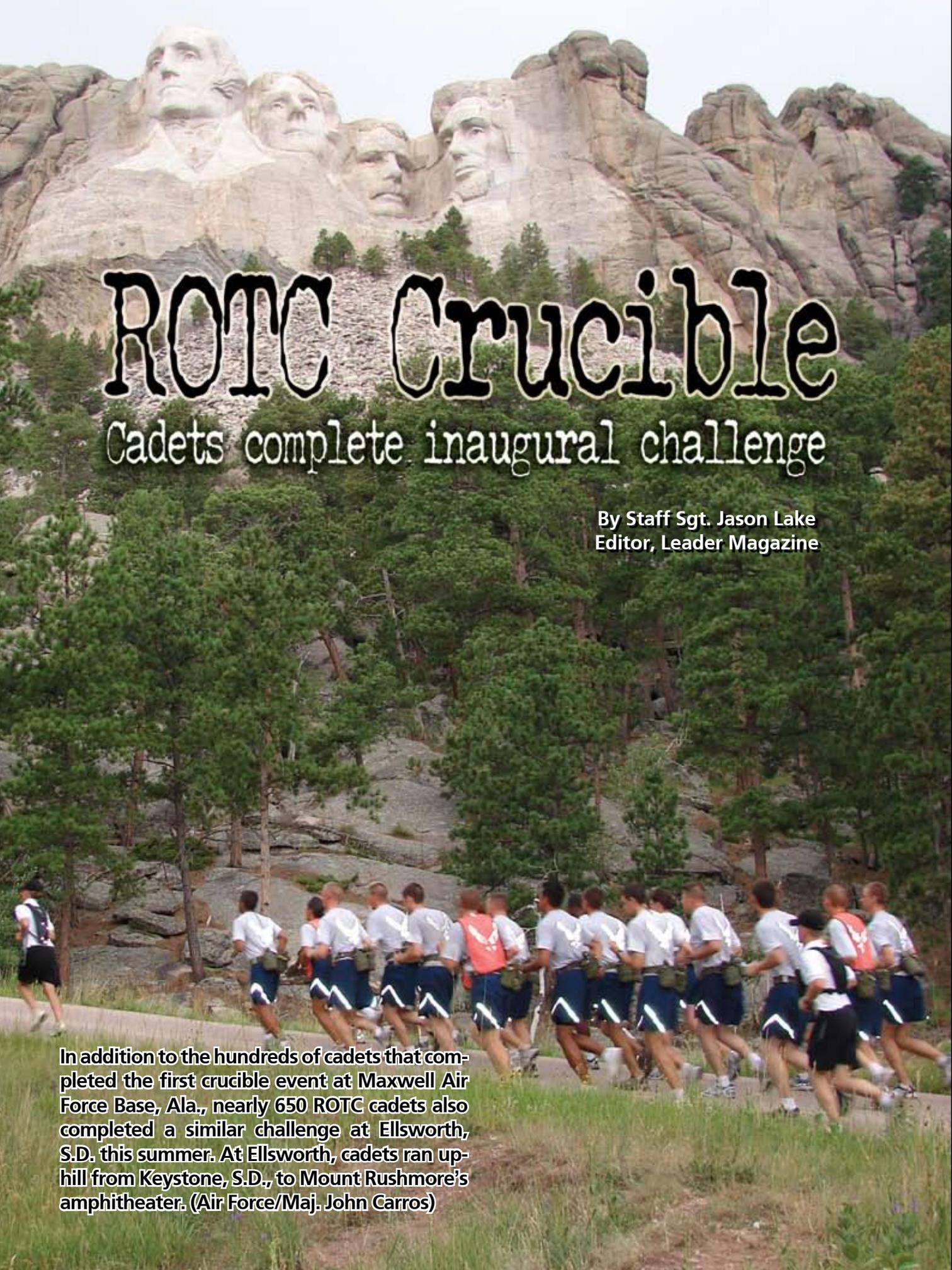
N PURSUIT OF THE OP & WINGS



OTS trainees explore Air Force heritage to advance career horizons

[LEFT] RUNNING FOR THE WRIGHT FLYERS: Officer Trainee Roy Corado (right) takes off running the 120-foot shuttle run behind the Wright Flyer monument at Maxwell Air Force Base's Academic Circle July 20. The run paid tribute to the Wright Brothers' first motorized flight in 1904 that was approximately 120 feet.

[ABOVE] 52 FOR THE B-52: (Second on the left) Officer Trainee Jacob Roney, gets motivation to finish 52 pushups under a B-52 Stratofortress from OTs Andre Silva (left), Gerad Gill and Michael Dommer. The trainees gutted out 52 pushups to commemorate the B-52's 52nd year of service. "The Prop and Wings Challenge was a great success," explained Lt. Col. Hans Palaoro, 24th Training Squadron commander. "The tie-in to Air Force and Maxwell history and heritage, along with the rigorous physical challenges, really motivated all the trainees. You could see how fired-up they were as they came down the home stretch to touch the Prop and Wings sculpture in front of Air University Headquarters, and again when they were surprised to receive their first Prop and Wings pins. It was a great event." 



ROTC Crucible

Cadets complete inaugural challenge

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
Editor, Leader Magazine

In addition to the hundreds of cadets that completed the first crucible event at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., nearly 650 ROTC cadets also completed a similar challenge at Ellsworth, S.D. this summer. At Ellsworth, cadets ran uphill from Keystone, S.D., to Mount Rushmore's amphitheater. (Air Force/Maj. John Carros)



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Cadet Training Assistant Andrew Glowa (far right), keeps track of time while dozens of cadets perform situps during ROTC's inaugural Props and Wings Challenge at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., July 17. The crucible event included performing an Air Force fitness test in battle dress uniform.



ore than 330 ROTC cadets were pushed to their mental and physical limits during Air University's first Props and Wings Challenge July 17.

The challenge culminated nearly four weeks of rigorous field training for incoming junior classmen at universities nationwide who plan to get their Air Force commission. According to organizers, the challenge will become a benchmark event that future ROTC field training cadets must complete in hopes of eventually receiving a commission.

Capt. Jimmy Tyson II, field training unit project officer, said the challenge -- which was created under the direction of Lt. Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Air University commander, to create a shared experience between the Air Force Academy, Officer Training School and Air Force ROTC -- had four objectives.

"The first objective of the challenge was to give cadets a crucible-like event at the end of their training that would push them both physically and mentally," he said.

Capt. Tyson said the second objective was to show the evolution of their growth during the previous 27 days of training, which included arriving as individuals, forming into flights, meshing into squadrons and finally operating as a group.

The next objective was to educate the cadets about teamwork, the Air Force Core Values, the Fit-to-Fight mentality and the importance of never leaving a fellow Airman behind, as stated in the Airman's Creed. The fourth objective, a goal for the more than 60

staff, instructors and cadet training assistants, was to create a life-long memorable event that ended with the cadets getting their Prop and Wings pin.

The Prop and Wings Challenge consisted of four major activities spread over five miles on Maxwell Air Force Base's flightline.

One of the most notable challenges was jogging one and a half miles in battle dress uniform and performing a physical fitness test in Alabama's hot, balmy weather.

The cadets also marched to several locations where they were quizzed on Air Force trivia such as the Air Force Core Values, Airman's Creed and Air Force Mission Statement.

After running and marching nearly five miles, the sweaty cadets were congratulated by Maj. Gen. Allen Peck, Air University vice commander, and Brig. Gen. Alfred Flowers, Air Force Officer Accession and Training

Schools commander, for successfully negotiating the course.

"[The Prop and Wings challenge] was exhausting and tiring, but it was very rewarding," said Cadet Benjamin Oatley, from the University of Florida's Det. 150. "We motivated each other and pushed each other to the limit. Many cadets didn't think they would be able to finish, but everyone did finish, and we finished as one unit. I know that I'm leaving field training as a stronger individual, a stronger team player and a stronger leader."

The next step for the majority of the more than 2,000 cadets who will attend this year's field training here or at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., is to complete two years of professional officer courses at their respective ROTC detachments. Then, after graduating from college, they would receive their Air Force commission. 



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

CTA Gregory Caylor, Det. 643, motivates Cadet Bryan Redor during the challenge at Maxwell.

2007 Field Training Award Winners (Cycle 1)

Distinguished graduates

Barnhill, Hunter
 Bohannon, Lucas
 Bonilla, Johnathan
 Bryant, Bradley
 Buller, Austin
 Calpito, Jan Ray
 Charity, Renee
 Dimercurio, Matteo
 Dozier, Travares
 Dukes, Daniel
 Etter, Nicholas
 Graff, Mark
 Gustafson, Craig
 Hernandez, Frank
 Jones, Kyle
 Kirk, Montgomery
 Lynch, Scott
 Mayer, Jaques
 McClain, Robert
 Moore, Brigham
 Moscoso, Carlos
 Officer, Clarence
 Patterson, Gary
 Peery, Scott
 Smith, Nikki
 Spicer, Jason
 Stank, Matthew
 Tucker, Daniel
 Wadhams, Cahn
 Voorhees, Paul
 Zosso, Eric



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Brig. Gen. Alfred Flowers, Air Force Officer Accessions and Training commander, pins the Prop and Wings pin on Cadet Group Commander Jeffrey Potterbaum (right) and Deputy Group Commander Ashley Currie July 17 at the conclusion of the Prop and Wings Challenge at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Superior performers

Aggas, Katelyn
 Anderson, Kevin
 Autrey, Kevin
 Barnes, Brett
 Blackford, Jason
 Boera, Arlie
 Boyles, Alan
 Brewer, Nicholas
 Brown, Kendall
 Callicutt, Brianna
 Callister, Amanda
 Carns, Marc
 Castillo, John
 Clark, Kara
 Coleman, Brandon
 Conway, Keith
 Dvorak, Eric
 Eagar, Braden
 Eggleston, Joshua
 Eng, Landon
 Gaddis, Purvis
 Greiwe, Clare
 Hawkins, William
 Hays, Jennifer
 Hite, Everett
 Hollis, Harris
 Holt, Michael
 Honeyman, Matthew
 Jenson, Jeshana

Jessen, Lucas
 Jones, Kristen
 Kercher, Sarah
 Kim, Kwang Woong
 King, Robert
 King, Michelle
 King, Roy
 Kottraba, Douglas
 Lepczyk, Mark
 Limbacher, Norinaga
 Lutz, Kandis
 Lydy, Brian
 Lynch, Scott
 McGhee, Jacob
 McKowski, Jeremy
 Moscoso, Carlos
 Murray, Patrick
 Mutari, Richard
 Nauman, Daniel
 Newton, Miolly
 Odom, John
 Osborne, Aaron
 Peak, Lance
 Porter, Caleb
 Portue, Scott
 Reid, Duane
 Reimer, Carly
 Rodriguez, Emilio
 Salmon, Jesse
 Sanders, Michael
 Settlecowski, Jason

Simon, Frank
 Smith, Nikki
 Snuffin, Durham
 Spencer, Justin
 Taylor, Jonathan
 Thornbury, Michael
 Wagner, Jessica
 Waits, Michael
 Wallace, Arielle
 Van Dyke, George
 Watson, Michael
 Weiss, Joanna
 Wilson, Mark
 Yancey, Chris
 Yerly, Eric
 Zimmerman, Gabrielle

Iron men/ women

Johnson, Candice
 Moore, Brigham
 Neely, Ryan
 Wagner, Jessica

Fitness test awards

Alpert, Ian
 Arnold, Peter
 Backes, Evan
 Bishop, Kevin
 Blackford, Jason

Bowen, Jared
 Buckman, Jacob
 Callister, Amanda
 Cox, Angie
 Culick, Franklin
 Datsko, Jon
 Del Vecchio, Anthony
 Detloff, Nicholas
 Donaldson, Josiah
 Dvorak, Eric
 Faulkner, Nolan
 Fegel, Melanee
 Gaddis, Purvis
 Glaz, Arthur
 Graves, Steven
 Grinstead, Evan
 Haverkamp, Mitchell
 Hawkins, William
 Heiserman, Christopher
 Hladik, Brian
 Hoff, Ryan
 Holley, Tyler
 Hook, David
 Hunter, Annaleis
 Johnson, Candice
 Kading, Matthew
 Kaweck, Jacob
 Kottraba, Douglas
 Leno, Johnathon
 Light, Travis
 McClain, Robert

McReynolds, Joshua
 Mills, Scott
 Moore, Brigham
 Morgan, Peter
 Mortimer, Nicholas
 Neely, Ryan
 Noah, George
 Porter, Caleb
 Preysz, Miklos
 Pylypciw, Matthew
 Reimer, Carly
 Ruggieri, Samuel
 Salmon, Jesse
 Schmitt, John
 Settlecowski, Jason
 Sheldon, Ryan
 Shreve, Carlton
 Snuffin, Durham
 Solis-Wheeler, Mychael
 Sylvester, Megan
 Tobitt, Joshua
 Torres, Benjamin
 Tucker, Edward
 Uekusa, Keara
 Wade, David
 Wagner, Jessica
 Wolfe, Clark
 Yancey, Chris
 Zimmerman, Gabrielle

Warrior spirit

Barnhill, Hunter
 Bohannon, Lucas
 Bonilla, Johnathan
 Bryant, Bradley
 Buller, Austin
 Calpito, Jan Ray
 Charity, Renee
 Dimercurio, Matteo
 Dozier, Travares
 Dukes, Daniel
 Etter, Nicholas
 Graff, Mark
 Gustafson, Craig
 Hernandez, Frank
 Jones, Kyle
 Kirk, Montgomery
 Lynch, Scott
 Mayer, Jaques
 McClain, Robert
 Moore, Brigham
 Moscoso, Carlos
 Officer, Clarence
 Patterson, Gary
 Peery, Scott
 Smith, Nikki
 Spicer, Jason
 Stank, Matthew
 Tucker, Daniel
 Wadhams, Cahn
 Voorhees, Paul
 Zosso, Eric

Cadets, Army National Guard team up for mock deployment

By Cadet Caitlin Hetrick
Det. 720, Pennsylvania State University

Cadets from Det. 720, the Pennsylvania State University, thought they were loading into buses for a 20-minute transit to their final deployment destination. With their rucksacks packed with sleeping bags, personal items, and a MRE, they set out for their first-ever 21-hour mock deployment April 27.

After only five minutes, the buses reached an open field close to campus. Cadets seemed confused as they left the bus and were instructed to remove their covers and take a knee. Shortly after, their true transport arrived – a UH-60 Black Hawk was scheduled to take the cadets the rest of the way. The Army National Guard Black Hawk crew flew in from Ft. Indian Town Gap, Pa., and made eight flights to Stone Valley; a university-owned camping area with almost 600 acres of land.

“It started out as a pipe dream,” explained Cadet Wade Hetrick, who handled communications and logistics for the flight portion of the event. “Someone just made an off-the-cuff remark at the first planning meeting, and we pursued it to see how far we could go.”

After the first flight landed at the deployment site, the cadets were tasked with setting up a perimeter and command center. Filling sand bags to make defensive fighting positions was the first order of business.

They also established medical support, communication, and intelligence units.

However, the cadets did not realize there were opposing forces in constant motion just beyond their perimeter. Cadet Joseph Raisner, one of the cadets on the opposition force’s side explained his unit’s role.

“Our job was to make sure they were alert and to test their response capabilities,” he said. “We hit them from every angle possible and made an effort to attack at least once an hour.”

Cadet David Steinour explained how senior leadership became a crucial factor for success in the exercise.

“As a subordinate, I got to see the upperclassmen step up in a new way,” he said. “Setting up and securing the base was a huge logistical issue, and I learned what good leadership in the field looks like.”

Cadets were tasked with missions throughout the exercise including search and rescue, reconnaissance, and managing a re-supply convoy. The students utilized Global Positioning System technology to guide them through the surrounding wooded area to reach their objectives.

“We always wanted to remind them that this was a learning environment despite the constant attacks,” said Cadet Meagan Bailey, another opposition force team member. “We paused the exercise after most major attacks to go over what needed to be improved and what the cadets did well. The more feedback we gave them, the better

they did.”

After making it through a hectic night, the cadets started the early morning with a flag raising ceremony. Despite the austere conditions in a “hostile” environment, cadets upheld strict military tradition during the ceremony. Afterwards, cadets participated in a physical training session.

The cadets had the privilege of working side by side with Marine Corps Sgt. Nate Romig and prior-enlisted cadets who have been deployed to the Middle East. One of those cadets, Cadet Chip Corbin, acknowledged, “This event was extremely valuable because it allowed us to practice leadership and problem solving in an environment we may soon find ourselves operating in. The problems encountered, for example in communications and accountability were problems that we will really have to overcome in the future. This was an exceptional training scenario for us.”

The final test of organization and leadership came with the orders to pack up and move the entire cadet wing to a Forward Operating Base. Their most recent intelligence report had shown that a large enemy force was moving in their direction and it was no longer safe. The cadets hiked about a mile to the FOB and extraction point.

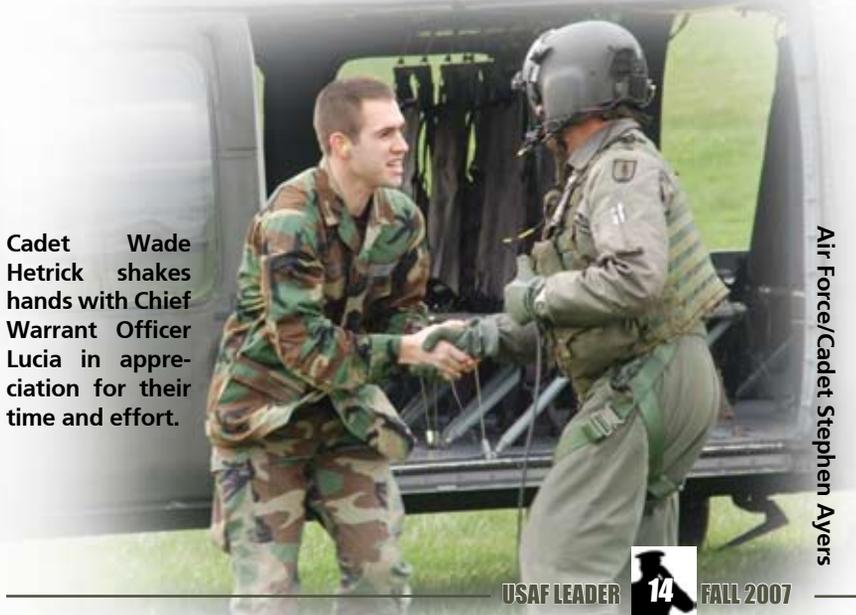
Cadre observers were always present and gave feedback to both teams during the exercise.

Col. David Heining, Professor of Aerospace Studies at Penn State said Operation Deploy 2007 was an enormous success.

“[The exercise] provided simulated battlefield conditions requiring cadets to think and to lead,” he said. “Both are critical assets needed to excel as an officer on active duty.”

This experience was an opportunity to get a taste, however small, of the skills and leadership required in today’s military. Cadet Jonathan Martel added, “When talking to the Marine and going through exercise attacks with him, I really gained a new perspective as to what he goes through each day while deployed. My eyes really opened up to what the U.S. military has to deal with on a daily basis - while I am safe and sound in college. The men and women of the U.S. military are truly heroes.”

Bill Hughes



Cadet Wade Hetrick shakes hands with Chief Warrant Officer Lucia in appreciation for their time and effort.

Air Force/Cadet Stephen Ayers

DET. 847 TRAINS AT GOODFELLOW AFB

**By Airman 1st Class
Stephen Musal**

17th Training Wing Public Affairs

Volunteers from Goodfellow Air Force Base hosted 21 cadets from Air Force ROTC Det. 847 at Angelo State University, Texas, during a field training exercise at the Camp Sentinel training area April 28.

Members of the 17th Medical Group taught self-aid and buddy care, volunteers from the 17th Security Forces Squadron instructed the cadets in air base defense and M-16 care, an instructor from the 344th Military Intelligence Battalion taught the basics of town patrol, and representatives from the 17th Civil Engineer Squadron readiness flight explained the basics of unexploded ordnance recognition and mission-oriented protective postures.

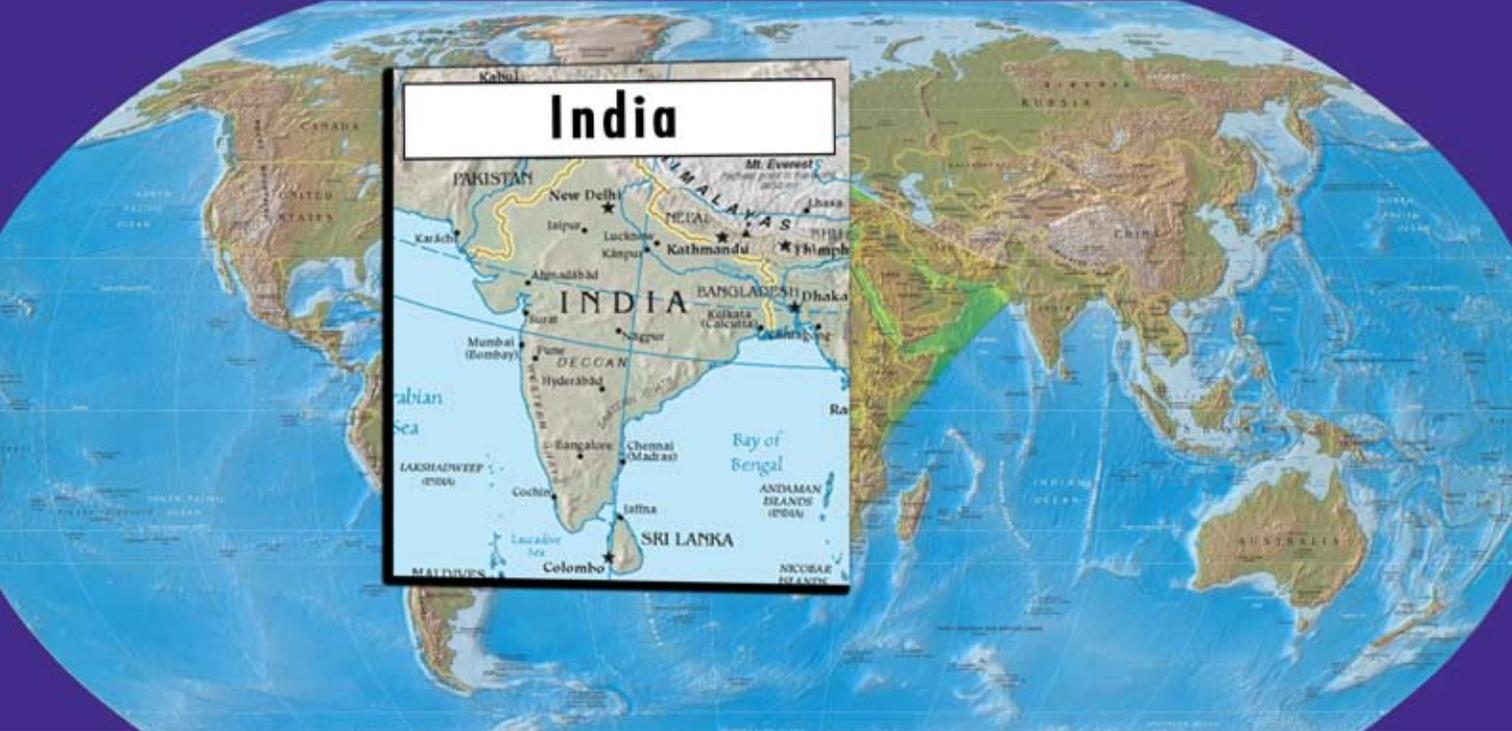
Airman 1st Class Timothy Lyons, 17th CES readiness flight, said the event was a great head-start for the Air Force's prospective officers. Staff Sgt. Josue Perez, a member of the 17th MDG who volunteered as an SABC instructor, agreed.

"It's a good opportunity for us to teach the future leaders of the Air Force," Sgt. Perez said. "In the type of war we fight, they'll need to know how to take care of themselves and others."

Senior Airman Dustin Vigil, a 17th SFS member and one of the air base defense instructors, made it a point to remind the cadets of that fact.

"As future leaders, you need to know that responsibility is on your shoulders," Airman Vigil said. "You will need to make decisions, and you will need to make them fast, because your Airmen will be looking to you to make the right call." 🧡

Cadet Matthew Sevey simulates firing from partial cover during a town patrol portion of a field training exercise at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas. The exercise was conducted at Goodfellow Air Force Base's Camp Sentinel training area.



Taking in the local culture

Cadets explore Indian society, sites

By Cadet Kyle Wamser
Det. 280, University of Kansas

While most college students were relaxing in late May after spring semester finals, four Air Force ROTC cadets along with four cadets from the United States Air Force Academy participated in a cultural immersion program to India sponsored by the Olmstead Foundation.

The Olmstead Cultural Immersion Programs offers some of the most unique experiences available to officer candidates.

The excursion included stops in India's three largest cities (Delhi, Calcutta and Mumbai) along with visits to important historic cultural sites. In Agra, cadets toured a mosque constructed in the 16th century before spending the next morning at the Taj Mahal.

At Varanasi, an important Hindu religious center, the group went on a boat ride for several miles along the Ganges River.

Another important aspect of the cultural immersion was to expose cadets to different parts of the Indian subcontinent,

both geographically and socially.

The tour included stops that stretched from Corbett National Park (one of the world's foremost tiger preserves) in the Himalayan foothills to the Elephant Caves off the tropical waters of the Arabian Sea.

"It was definitely an eye-opening adventure that helped me to realize and understand the Eastern world view. [Many Indians] view life in a very cyclical manner, which means essentially that [their] history and ancestry will never die," explained Cadet Bryan Davis from Det. 002 at California State University-San Bernardino.

The cultural aspects were just as diverse.

In Mumbai, a strong Western influence was readily apparent from numerous glass skyscrapers to the Rolls Royce dealership near downtown, while in West Bengal (home of Calcutta), the citizens



Courtesy photo

One of the sites cadets visited during the Olmstead Cultural Immersion Program was the Taj Mahal in Agra, India.

typically elect communists to the state government.

Some other notable parts of the Indian visit included a stop to Mother Teresa's tomb and the nearby areas where she aided the poor along with several rides on the Indian rail system that links the country together.

Besides India, ROTC and Air Force Academy cadets participated in cultural and language immersion programs in Brazil, Chile, Germany, Morocco, South Africa and Turkey. 🇯🇵

A GLIMPSE AT BATAAN: Cadet recounts WWII tribute march

By Cadet Benjamin Riggles

Det. 218, Indiana State University/Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Our day began at 3:30 a.m. March 25. We spent the night on a crowded gym floor at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Soon after the lights came on, the mass chaos of checking in and getting to the staging area with nearly 5,000 other marchers began.

Before the race was an opening ceremony to honor those who died in and survived the World War II Bataan Death March through the Philippines. Needless to say, it was a moving way to watch the sun rise over the mountain range and warm the cool desert surrounding us. Although beautiful, it evoked nothing compared to the emotions and feelings I would experience throughout the rest of the day.

As we left the staging area and crossed the starting line, we had the opportunity to stop and shake hands with World War II veterans, as well as three survivors of the Bataan Death March [in 1942]. The volunteers warned us not to shake their hands too firmly, and when I got up there I knew why.

These men were old. They wore their old service caps, and I particularly remember bending over and shaking the hand of an old Native American man, who had a feather tied in his hair underneath his cap. He sat in a chair, his wife standing next to him. I could not think of anything to say, but good morning and thank you. Meeting those courageous men was an experience and honor in itself.

Starting off the journey we decided to jog a little. With nearly 50 pounds strapped to each of our backs, this did not last long before we slowed it to a forced march. The trail was packed with marchers, looking like a river of people and rucksacks moving through the desert.

I was feeling fine until mile eight, which started a near six-mile

incline – no dips, no let-ups. My legs took the worst hit of the race on this stretch. I lost feeling in my toes and had been leaning forward for so long that when we hit the mile 14 check point, I could barely stand up straight. It felt good though, because every one of us thought it was going to be downhill from there. Of course as soon as we strapped back up and rounded the bend, it was another couple miles uphill in the sand. This was about enough to break my spirit, but the real breaking point wasn't until mile 20.

After an extended rest to take care of some foot issues at mile 18.5, my legs were so stiff, and it hurt worse to go downhill than up.

At mile 20 my body was broken. I thought I knew what pain and fatigue were, but I had never felt this before. The desire to be done overwhelmed me and kept my body moving during the last six miles of winding, hilly, sandy desert trail. This was by far the worst part of the race.

I had images of hell being like this, but not having the option to stop. I thought about the prisoners of war and what they must have gone through. I was well equipped. I had food, water, medical supplies, and

whatever else I took along. They had next to nothing.

Toward the end of the race, I was fighting several emotions at once: pain, fatigue, a deep sadness for those who were forced to march, some to the death, in WWII, and the haunting feeling that each mile was growing longer and longer. It was overwhelming, and I wanted to finish more than anything.

Finally crossing the finish line with my team was one of the greatest feelings of accomplishment I have ever had. After the race, I wanted nothing more than to shake those veterans' hands one more time and thank them for their service, but they had left. Nevertheless, I hope they will be there next year, so I can say thank you once again. I can't possibly say that I know how the real marchers 65 years ago felt, or what they went through – I can't even begin to imagine. But I do have a much better appreciation for all veterans after competing in the race.

Overall, it was one of the most incredible experiences of my life, and I want to go back. I will carry that race with me forever. 



Courtesy photo

Cadet Benjamin Riggles looks back as he marches more than 25 miles on a simulated Bataan Death March in White Sands, N.M., this spring.



Tribute to a local hero

Junior ROTC Cadets John Delong, Jessi Arrowsmith, Nick Jeanetta, Jake Harrer and David McCloskey from Bellevue East NE-021 Color Guard perform during the opening ceremony of the College World Series June 20. A record breaking 29,931 fans watched as the unit carried out the colors for the fifth consecutive year. There was also a moment of silence in remembrance of Army Spc. Adam Herold who was recently killed in Iraq. 



Cadets Kyle Esquibel and Daniel Phalin look inside the cockpit of an F-16 Fighting Falcon as Staff Sgt. Luis Otero explains some of the controls. Sergeant Otero and the F-16 are from the New Mexico Air National Guard's 150th Fighter Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.



This summer America's elite half-percentile of Air Force Junior ROTC cadets came together to explore science and technology as part of...

AIR FORCE HONORS CAMP

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
Editor, Leader Magazine

While some high school students may have a good idea of their career

goals early on, many others do not. Recently the Air Force Junior ROTC invested into some of its brightest cadets to showcase careers that could use their academic talents.

This summer more than 450 cadets from units worldwide attended the Air Force Junior ROTC Aerospace and Technology Honor Camp. The organization's top half-percentile of cadets were selected to attend the camp based on academic performance, aptitude in math and science, and recommendations from unit senior aerospace science instructors.

The week-long ATHC was divided up into eight separate camps split between two locations – Albuquerque, N.M., and Oklahoma City. Each location showcased various aerospace science, technology and engineering programs at local colleges and nearby Air Force bases.

New Mexico

In New Mexico, cadets visited the Uni-

versity of New Mexico campus and were treated to various chemistry and engineering demonstrations and activities from professors like (retired) Air Force Col. Dana Brabson from UNM's chemistry department.

"This is definitely worth my time," explained Brabson, who retired from the Air Force after 27 years of service. "I like getting kids excited about science and technology and these Junior ROTC cadets are the cream of the crop."

Cadets constructed wooden gliders and test fired bottle rocket cars that they had created as a team. In addition to visiting Kirtland Air Force Base's 150th Fighter Wing and Pararescue School, the students also "took the stick" and piloted trainer aircraft.

Nakeshia Gauntt who attended from AL-011, said she had a fear of heights before coming out to the camp.

"It was my first time flying when I came out to the camp," she explained. "[After takeoff] I was holding onto my seat real tight and the man next to me was laughing."

After a few hours of flying in a trainer aircraft and taking the controls, Cadet Gauntt said she has a different take on flying.

"I was afraid of heights, but now I'm not," explained. "Now, I want to get my pilot license!"



Cadet Craig Soto from CO-20001 launches his team's glider during the final Aerospace and Technology Honors Camp in New Mexico July 24.

The cadets also had the opportunity to speak with seasoned Airmen such as Brig. Gen. Anita Gallentine, a Reservist and mobilization assistant to the Director of Logistics, at Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., who shared her experiences on being a woman in the military and how the Air Force continues to evolve in the post-9/11 era.

Oklahoma

Exploring the Severe Storms Laboratory at the National Weather Service and Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum were some of the highlights from the Oklahoma honor camp.

Cadets walked through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to see where the country's severe weather forecasters monitor tornado activity and severe thunderstorms.

Across the street, the students got a glance at genetic engineering and robotics at the Stephenson Research and Technology Center within the University of Oklahoma campus. Here, the junior and senior high school students watched as researchers like Fares Najar demonstrated the ability to conduct DNA sequencing on a laboratory strain of E.coli. Mechanical engineers also showed the cadets how robots can be taught to perform certain tasks – primarily for the disabled. When given the command to find a red box, a mobile crane robot looked around a room and picked up a red box.

Like the New Mexico camp, cadets had the opportunity to fly training aircraft, and they also visited Tinker Air Force Base. While at Tinker, the students got a glimpse how the Air Force maintains some of its older aircraft in its inventory while touring the Air Logistics Center's depot maintenance hangar. The ALC commander, Brig. Gen. Judith Fedder, also took some time to talk with the cadets about her Air Force career and the importance of making good decisions.

This year was the fourth year of Aerospace and Technology Honor Camp. The program was started with the help of Col. Steve Jones and Lt. Col. Dan Eddy shortly after former Secretary of the Air Force James Roche's recommendation in 2002. Since then, there have been 36 camps.

This year was the final year for Colonel Eddy, a Reservist who serves at the Air Force Officer Accession and Training School Headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., who plans to retire next spring.

"When I was asked to head up the Aerospace and Technology Honors Camps in 2002 I never dreamed the program would become what it is today," he explained. "The philosophy behind the camps was to expose our best Junior ROTC cadets to aerospace and technology careers in the Air Force. It was not supposed to be another leadership school. With this in mind we tested different approaches the first year and the camps eventually evolved into what they are today. Heading up these camps has been a highlight of my 34 years in the Air Force... it's a nice "bookend" to the last chapter... what a way to go out!" 

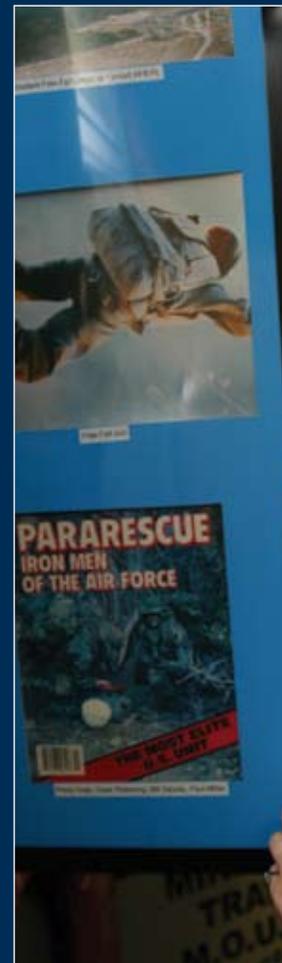


Cadets Wrenn Taylor, SC-933, and Calvin Conner, FL-092, listen as Dr. Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration demonstrates how a weather data and relays it back to the National Weather Service. The cadets also Storms Laboratory observation room where meteorologists monitor severe



LAB TEST: Cadet Lilah Soto-Foote from GR-071 watches as a colony picking robot prepares to sequence samples of E.coli for DNA sequencing at the Stephenson Research Center in Norman, Okla. While at the research facility cadets learned about biological, electrical and computer engineering programs.

PARARESCUE: Cadet Stephanie Hurstell from LA-944 looks through an archive of articles on pararescuemen July 26 during a visit to the Pararescue and Combat Rescue Officer Training School at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. In addition to visiting the school, cadets also took orientation flights, visited the 377th Air Base Wing's readiness division and STARBASE.





W. David Rust of the National
er balloon collects atmospheric
got a chance to see the Severe
vere weather nationwide.



Cadet Garrett Tharp from CA-051 saws a piece of wood to use for a frame on his bottle rocket car during a rocket car construction contest at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque July 25.



Free software aims to boost ACT, SAT test scores

By John J. Kruzel
American Forces Press Service

A company that makes test-preparation products for students gearing up for college entrance exams is offering free materials to servicemembers and their families, sacrificing a chunk of its bottom line for those on the front lines.

eKnowledge is an online- and CD-ROM-based learning program that teaches test-taking techniques for the Scholastic Aptitude Test, or SAT, and American College Test, or ACT, among others. The company plans to expand its coverage soon by offering complimentary programs to Junior ROTC members.

Charlie Beall, eKnowledge chief executive officer and a former Marine, served during the Vietnam era as a second lieutenant. He said he has sympathy for servicemembers whose income might be strained by \$300 or \$400 price tags attached to premium test-prep products.

"A sergeant in the Air Force stationed in Singapore who's got a couple of teenage kids that

are getting ready to go to college can't afford \$400 or \$500 apiece for these test-preparation products," Mr. Beall said. "A lot of these folks have children in the Junior ROTC program, so they're going to have help with tuition because they're going to go to school on ROTC scholarships.

"But that doesn't help them financially with their ACT and SAT test preparation, which ultimately is going to have an influence on which schools they can go to," he added.

SAT and ACT exam scores often weigh heavily in college admission judgments and can tip the scales toward an applicant's acceptance or rejection. Beall estimates students improve their scores 30 to 40 percent when they prepare with eKnowledge products, compared to those who don't use a premium-prep program.

A group of National Football League players last year heard about eKnowledge's plan to donate study materials to boost troops' and their family mem-

bers' chances at gaining admis-

sion to choice schools. The seven NFL players -- Mark Anderson of the Chicago Bears, Jon Bradley of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Garrick Jones of the Atlanta Falcons, Corey Williams of the Green Bay Packers, Jason Radar of the Miami Dolphins, Ahmaad Galloway of the San Diego Chargers, and Scott Young of the Philadelphia Eagles -- jumped at the chance to support servicemembers and their families.

With the football players' help, eKnowledge donated \$6.9 million worth of multimedia SAT/ACT preparation materials.

Young said he was inspired to team with eKnowledge because of Jake Johnson, Young's best friend since high school. As a Marine, Johnson spent four years serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"When people are willing to put their lives on hold to serve and protect the U.S., our freedoms (and) everything we know as a country, it's the least we can do to help these people in the

military come home and get back to a civilian lifestyle, to get back and get that little jumpstart into education," Young said.

"I think it is owed by the civilian population to help out people who are fighting for us and risking their lives and the families (who) are right there with them," he said.

eKnowledge and NFL participants have donated more than 48,000 test preparation CDs and DVDs, and received roughly 20,000 thank you notes from satisfied troops. One note was even postmarked from Africa, where a servicemember was stationed.

"As a military parent residing in Kenya," Air Force Maj. Douglas McClain wrote, "I truly appreciate the opportunity to obtain these products for my daughter who attends the international school here.

"This program will guarantee that she has current material to prepare for the SAT and ACT," the note said. "Thanks from an Air Force major who is trying to serve his country and also take care of his family." 

ACE THE TESTS

Servicemembers interested in receiving free eKnowledge products can complete an online request form at www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil by following the link to "Donation: VSG/NFL Players," and Junior ROTC cadets should visit sat.eknowledge.com/JROTC.

Requests can also be made by calling eKnowledge at 951-256-4076 or via e-mail at support@eknowledge.com.

Air University provides curriculum, manpower for Iraqi officer training

By Christine Harrison

Air University Public Affairs

When Air University officials received a request in November to develop a curriculum for two Iraqi air force officer training schools, it produced the material in less than three months.

"It took 79 days from beginning to end," said Dr. Charles Nath, director of curriculum at the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools.

"We worked through Christmas to develop two courses with more than 900 total hours of curriculum," he said. "The syllabus included lesson plans, slides, reading materials, everything that they would need to conduct an initial officer training course."

The request came from the Coalition Air Force Transition Team in Baghdad through Air Education and Training Command Headquarters, said Brig. Gen. Alfred K. Flowers, the commander of the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools.

"The curriculum that we developed is essentially the same leadership curriculum we teach here to our officer trainees," General Flowers said. "It is the basic principles of leadership that we are teaching to the Iraqi trainers who will then teach their officer trainees. Leadership 101 is Leadership 101 no matter where you are."

While the basic principles of leadership are the same, the curriculum area manager for AFOATS said the curriculum had to be changed significantly based on cultural concerns.

"Cultural sensitivity was a key issue in the design of the lessons," said Kevin Lynn, a retired Air Force chief master sergeant who also worked with the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq and headed up the team of 12 AFOATS curriculum writers.

The curriculum focuses on leadership, communication and fundamental air power theories, Mr. Lynn said. These were the building blocks the curriculum developers used to design the Iraqi air force officer training school programs. The team of curriculum writers was tasked to



Air Force graphic art by Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

provide two programs of study for two training locations in Iraq.

The first, a course designed for Iraqi military academy graduates, will serve as the primary pipeline for future pilots; the second course for "straight off the street cadets with no prior military experience" is targeted at training non-rated officers.

The second course is about 100 hours longer than the first course.

Not only did Air University provide a curriculum for Iraq's first officer training schools, but also a plan for training Iraqi instructors as well.

The instructor curriculum was not requested, but the group anticipated the future need, so Bill Nicholas of the AFOATS curriculum staff designed a course for the Iraqi air force patterned after the AFOATS instructor training program, Dr. Nath said.

The program development did not happen only at AFOATS, but was a collaborative effort involving resources from across Air University, General Flowers said.

"It wasn't just our folks," he said. "We had help from Squadron Officer College, the College of Enlisted Professional Military Education, the Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and the First Sergeant Academy, as well as other schools from around the circle here at Maxwell. It has really been an Air University team effort."

The Iraqi officer training school's curricula provided by Air University is only a part of a much larger program, Dr. Nath said.

"The rest of the puzzle is to establish a basic military training school, a technical training capability and a flying training program for the Iraqi air force," he said.

Several OTS instructors are currently teaching the courses, and are looking for Iraqi students who may be candidates for instructor positions after they leave, said Col. Matthew Donovan, the OTS commander.

"The important thing is that, as we grow these new officers, we pick the very best and brightest to train as the new Iraqi OTS instructors," he said. "Right now my folks are the flight commanders. Hopefully the next class will have Iraqi flight commanders training and maybe the time after that our guys will just shadow the Iraqis so that we will eventually withdraw from those positions."

While the trainers are working in hostile and unpredictable areas, he has had no trouble finding OTS instructors who are willing to deploy, Colonel Donovan said.

"In fact, most of the folks who work for me have come down and asked if they can go," he said. "They all want to go, and they all want to be a part of this. It warms my heart because they know it is the right thing to do." 

Air Force art by Staff Sgt. Austin May



Capt. Stephanie Isaac-Francis

Deployed duty title:

386th Air Expeditionary Wing,
Contingency Aeromedical
Staging Facility clinical nurse

Deployed Location:

Southwest Asia

Home station:

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,
Ohio

Years of service:

6 years

Hometown:

Brooklyn, N.Y.

AF school graduated:

Graduated from Officer Training
School in 2001

Deployment experience:

I've been deployed to Iraq and
Kuwait.

How is the field environment different than home station operations?

The CASF experience is different
than home operations in that here
we primarily provide care to sta-
bilize sick and wounded patients
until their next flight out for de-

finite care. Some patients require
rehabilitation, surgery or further
medical evaluations that cannot
be provided in the theater and are
usually transported via flight with-
in 24-72 hours. A team of nurses,
technicians and physicians will go
out to the flightline to recover and
launch patients, usually from a C-
17 Globemaster or C-130 Hercules.
Missions occur mostly at night for
security reasons, although we may
have an occasional helo mission
during the day.

What has been the biggest challenge at your current location?

The biggest challenge here is
that we have to be conscientious
of our resources. Things we take
for granted at home such as an
abundance of intravenous fluids,
linen for patients and other pa-
tient care items are sometimes
limited at a deployed location.
Also, many of our support ser-
vices such as radiology, labora-
tory and pharmacy are managed
by one Airman who is on call 24
hours. Getting adjusted to the
change in work hours can also be
a challenge. A typical work week
may consist of 12-hour shifts, six

days a week.

What advice do you have for future Air Force officers?

My advice is to seek a mentor,
someone who you admire for
their work ethic and experience.
That person may help you to de-
cide what's best for you in your
career path. Keep current in the
latest nursing trends and com-
plete the required military educa-
tion. Be flexible, as you may be
placed into a duty assignment you
didn't expect. However, give it
100 percent. A hard worker never
goes unnoticed and the doors of
opportunity will open.

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

OTS prepared me for transition as
a civilian nurse to being a military
nurse in the Air Force. It prepared
me to understand that I'm an of-
ficer first. With that responsibility
comes a commitment to my coun-
try and to be a strong leader for
my Airmen. I also need to be pro-
fessional and seek self improve-
ment whether at my home base
or a deployed location. 🙏



RAF Lakenheath, United Kingdom

Mission: The 48th Fighter Wing stands ready to provide responsive combat airpower, support and services to meet our nation's and allies' objectives.

Type, number of aircraft: Royal Air Force Lakenheath has more than 60 F-15C Eagles and four HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters.

Major units: Home of the 48th Fighter Wing, 494th Fighter Squadron, 493rd Fighter Squadron, 492nd Fighter Squadron and 56th Rescue Squadron.

Personnel Assigned: The "Liberty Wing" consists of nearly 5,000 active duty military, 2,000 British and American civilians and includes a geographically separated unit at nearby RAF Feltwell.

Nearest city & population: Cambridge with approximately 110,000 people is 25 miles away.

Recreation: The U.K., as part of the European Union, opens up all of Europe to cheap and easy travel. Additionally, it also offers castles, mountains and beautiful coastlines to explore.

Factoid: The base was used as a decoy base for RAF's Mildenhall and Feltwell during the early days of World War II. False runway lights and planes made of plywood were quickly constructed near what is now the Rod and Gun Club. The decoys succeeded in luring Luftwaffe crews away from nearby Mildenhall and Feltwell as German crews bombed and strafed Lakenheath on at least five different occasions.

What can a young officer get out of this assignment? Young officers can expect to work with U.S. Air Forces in Europe's only F-15 fighter wing supporting NATO. If that's not enough, the U.K. offers endless travel opportunities and an extra cost of living allowance.

Website: www.lakenheath.af.mil



BASE OF PREFERENCE



Dropping in for a visit...

Airmen jump from a C-130 Hercules June 2 during an airdrop in support of Operation Hydra, a weeklong exercise. The exercise was held to test the 615th Contingency Response Wing's ability to conduct expeditionary operations at three locations. (Air Force/Staff Sgt. Sarayuth Pinthong)

