

U.S. AIR FORCE

LEADER

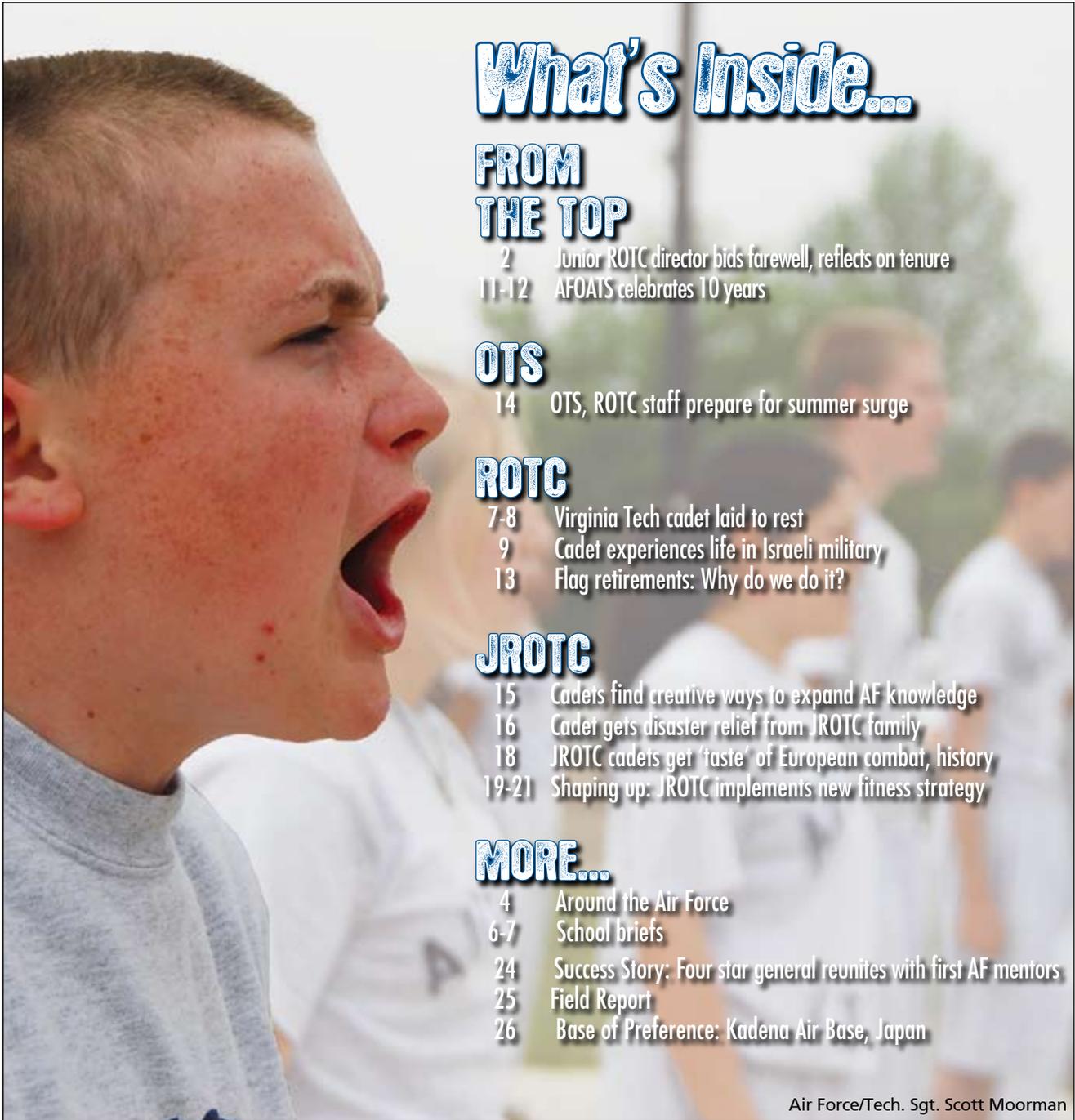
Summer 2007 Vol. 29, Issue 3



10th

Anniversary

AFOATS



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Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Scott Moorman

U.S. AIR FORCE LEADER

A PRODUCT OF AIR FORCE OFFICER ACCESSION AND TRAINING SCHOOLS

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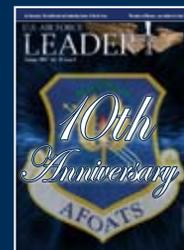
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On the cover...



Air Force Officer Accessions and Training Schools celebrated its 10th Anniversary earlier this month. See pages 11-12 for story and photos. (Air Force illustration/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake)

MOVING ON

Junior ROTC director bids farewell, reflects on tenure

Looking back, what was your reaction when you heard you would be the director of Junior ROTC?

My first impression was, who did I tick off? I didn't appreciate Junior ROTC, and, coming out of war college after deployments as a B-52 squadron commander, the last thing I thought I'd be involved with was high school programs.

What do you think about Junior ROTC now?

Boy did I mistake what Junior ROTC is all about and what a fantastic program and opportunity this would be. There are 869 high schools, 1,900 instructors and more than 105,000 students across the globe – supported by one of the best staffs I have ever seen. They all have one common attribute – everyone truly cares about helping young Americans open doors for themselves.

What was your favorite part of the job?

Dropping in on a unit and finding out firsthand from instructors, cadets and school administrators how we can focus the program. In almost every class I hear the students telling me similar recaps of why they like Junior ROTC. They tell me that they appreciate the self-discipline, personal responsibility and pride they've learned, that they feel like they're part of a family and that they're having fun. I congratulate them for discovering for themselves a secret for their long term success in whatever careers they choose. They've discovered for themselves a culture where: 1) your efforts are maximized through teamwork; 2) They know pride in themselves and others; and 3) they look forward to the challenges before them and have fun doing it. So now, no matter where they end up in America – a doctor, teacher, military member or congressman, they will not accept anything less than that culture (which is also a major reason why most folks stay in the military).

So what do you think of today's young cadets that you meet?

They're awesome. They have a ton of challenges before them, with often very little support as past generations enjoyed, but they're motivated and anxious to demonstrate their capabilities. Junior ROTC really gives them an opportunity to succeed for it provides boundaries and opportunities that they really appreciate.

You've been big on implementing physical training [see pages 19-21] into the curriculum, why?

Well, first off, it's really a wellness curriculum and that distinction is huge. We're trying to give our cadets tools that will help them optimize their physical, mental and spiritual well being. The wellness program is individually tailored for each cadet over a 36-



*Col. Norman Balchunas
JROTC director*

week period so they achieve growth and success. We're soon adding 36 group activities that instructors can use (as they desire) on a weekly basis. Frankly, the Junior ROTC wellness staff under the direction of Capt. Dan Forman, Capt. Marie Williams and Paul Keeping have put together the best wellness program I have seen in 24 years in the Air Force. It's a deployable program that Air Force members can take into the field or on the road with them.

As you prepare to become a detachment commander at the University of Alabama this summer, what have you learned?

I've never been prouder to wear my Air Force uniform than now. Our senior leaders truly have some tough challenges to meet all of our nation's requirements; but they always ensure that we stay focused on our future – our young Airman and in the case of Junior ROTC, our American high school students. It is incredible to see our peers retire and then continue to wear their uniform mentoring and setting an amazing example for their students. Our cadets learn that success is about determining what really matters and doing that, pursuing that with all your heart. They see that our core values are best implemented from the heart; service, love and trust come from the heart. I've re-learned that time and time again from the people I serve with. 🙏

LIBERTY: FREEDOM OF CHOICE WORTH FIGHTING FOR

By Lt. Col. Angela Johnson
407th Air Expeditionary Group
deputy commander

SOUTHWEST ASIA -- Remember second grade when your teacher asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Then she started at the first seat on the far right side of the room.

You were in the second row, third seat, desperately trying to imagine what you wanted to be and then making sure you said something that would score "cool" points.

I remember that moment and I remember my response, "Race car driver." That is what I really wanted to be.

The thought of Air Force officer, missile launch control officer, (what would Karen, Shane, Lori, et. al., have thought had I said that in second grade? Forget cool, we're talking "dweeber" points.), squadron commander, etc...none of these jobs entered my mind.

Sitting there in Mrs. O'Neal's classroom, I couldn't know what path my life would take. Still, I had the utmost confidence that I could choose anything I wanted to do and as long as I worked hard and persevered, I could do it. Why? Because I had the great blessing of being born in the United States of America, where freedom is protected and honored.

I grew up on a North Carolina farm. Rural life was simple and full of challenges and hope. Our neighbors were like family. I grew up knowing everyone and they knew you. I recall countless examples of dignity and character witnessed growing up around some great Americans.

These people were not perfect, they were not famous, but everyday they worked and took care of their families and neighbors. They talked about taxes, church, baseball, that new tractor they were saving for, and about the size of that bass caught in Mr. Sullivan's pond (I was pretty sure a bass couldn't grow to be as long as Mr. Stephenson's arm).

They were leaders, mentors, and sometimes they stumbled, yet, they lived their lives as an example to us youngsters. They all wanted life for their children to be better than they had it. We all knew it and most of us wanted to have a better life, although the one we had was pretty amazing. Of course, we were too young to realize it at the time. The common thread here is they were free to choose and they would do whatever it took to make sure we all had that right as well.

My dad, his brother and many others all left the safety of home and joined the Army during World War II. They stood up when their family,

neighbors and country needed them. They were just regular Americans who knew what was at stake, the very freedom that so many had fought for before and continue to fight for today.

I never heard my father speak of that time until I decided to join the military. Then he talked of commitment, sacrifice, iron-will and the foresight not to take myself too seriously.

The day of my dad's funeral, they folded the flag draped over the coffin and handed it to my mother. At that moment, I knew my life would never be the same. I looked around at all the neighbors who were there, to share that moment with my family.

As profoundly sad as we were, it was also a cause for celebration. The celebration of life, my father's life and what he had stood for, the many people present who had been there throughout my life and what each one of them represented.

We were all family, a community of ordinary citizens, bound by respect for life and liberty, regardless of race, religion, gender, or who could cook the best apple pie.

I knew, right there, right then, that was why I had chosen to join the military. I wanted to be a part of something much bigger than me. I wanted to give back to all of those people who had been there to help me grow into the adult I had become. I was proud to serve a nation that, in spite of all her imperfections, represents "liberty and justice for all."

Being here, in Iraq, has given me complete conviction that liberty is worth any cost. Many courageous, ordinary Americans have paid the ultimate price to preserve those freedoms we hold so dear and I am honored to be a part of their "community."

Race car driving will have to wait until I retire. That's when I'll enroll in the Richard Petty NASCAR Driving course back in North Carolina. You see, I really was serious that day in Mrs. O'Neal's classroom. 

“I wanted to be a part of something much bigger than me. I wanted to give back to all of those people who had been there to help me grow into the adult I had become. I was proud to serve a nation that, in spite of all her imperfections, represents liberty and justice for all.”



Airborne Laser tracking test a success

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The YAL-1A Airborne Laser, a modified Boeing 747-400F, successfully test fired its target illuminator laser during a five-hour test flight March 15.

The mission and test firing represented the Airborne Laser's first in-flight external laser firing, and used the NC-135E "Big Crow" test aircraft to verify the ABL's ability to track an airborne target and measure atmospheric turbulence.

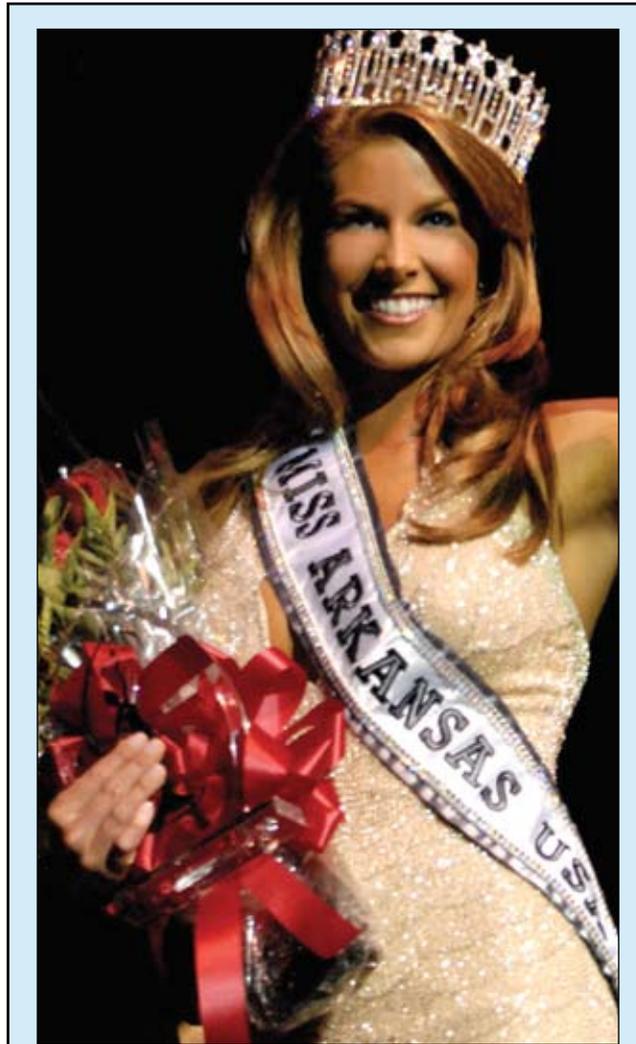
Current testing of the ABL is in preparation for the integration later this year of the chemical oxygen iodine laser, or COIL, a missile-killing, high-energy chemical laser.

The next major step for the test program is to combine what was started with the tracking of another aircraft with the Target Illuminator Laser, officials said, thus being able to then project out the surrogate high-energy laser, called the SHEL.

Officials change leave, special liberty rules

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Airmen may now be granted a special liberty (pass) in conjunction with leave without requiring a duty day between the pass and leave periods.

Airmen must be physically present in the local area when departing and returning from leave. If they wish to leave the local area during the pass period and not return prior to the beginning of the leave period,



Courtesy/Rhonda Gilliam

Officer competes in Miss USA pageant

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Second Lieutenant Kelly George, who was named Miss Arkansas last October, competed in the Miss USA pageant March 23. Lieutenant George is a resident of Sherwood, Ark., and is the deputy chief of Public Affairs for the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. For more Air Force News, visit www.af.mil.

then the entire leave and pass period will be charged as leave.

A pass may not be used in combination with holidays or other off-duty periods if that combination extends the absence from duty beyond four days.

Commanders may further restrict leave and passes as necessary to meet mission requirements.

For more information, Airmen should contact their commander's support staff.

Virtual tour guides newest feature to airforce.com

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force's official recruiting Web site, airforce.com, unveiled its latest innovation recently with the introduction of virtual tour guides on the site's home page.

The tour guides, ranging in rank from airman first class to master sergeant, are designed to lend a personal touch to a Web site loaded with information for prospective recruits, parents, influencers and those wanting to learn more about the Air Force.

The tour guide technology is a favorite feature on many corporate Web sites, but the Air Force is the first military site to incorporate it.

Air Force stands up first unmanned aircraft systems wing in Nevada

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — The Air Force's first unmanned aircraft systems wing stood up May 1 at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

As Col. Christopher Chambliss assumed command of the 432nd UASW, a piece of history was revived and a course for the way ahead continued.

Forming an unmanned aircraft systems wing has been in the work for about four years, according to Colonel Chambliss.

"The new wing is an evolution in the Air Force's UAS program and provides the next step forward in medium- and high-altitude unmanned air systems," he said. 

School briefs

TX-20062 wins Wentworth Challenge (JROTC)

THE WOODLANDS, Texas — Cadets from TX-20062 recently got word that their unit had won a national fundraising contest called the Wentworth Challenge [www.wma1880.org/went-

worthchallenge] that helps military families of deployed servicemembers.

Major Gary Peck, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor at the school said his cadets helped raise more than \$2,750 for the Unmet Needs program [www.unmetneeds.com] As a reward for their efforts, R. Lee Erney from the History Channel's

famous "Mail Call" will pay a visit to the unit.

AL-011 bring Easter Fun to kindergarteners (JROTC)

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Nine cadets from AL-011 at Robert E. Lee High School here sponsored an Easter egg hunt for kindergarten students at Paterson Elementary School.

According to Major B. Marshall-Coleman, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor of AL-011, the cadets adopted the class and visit the children throughout the year to provide mentoring. The cadets organized the egg hunt, furnished all the eggs and prizes and ended the day with some outdoor games with the children.

TX-20009 briefs elementary students (JROTC)

CASTROVILLE, Texas — Seven cadets from TX-20009 at Medina Valley High School briefed Internet safety, nutrition and child safety to dozens of students at La Coste Elementary School Feb. 23.

Cadet Toni Lindsay said she had fun briefing the younger children.

"I think they enjoyed what we had to tell them," she said.

Det. 003 talks with female astronaut (ROTC)

HOUSTON — Retired Col. Eileen Collins, an Air Force pilot who was the first female to command a space shuttle mission, visited Det. 3, University of Houston to speak to its cadets and seven nearby Junior ROTC units.

Colonel Collins talked to cadets about the importance of building professional relationships, gaining work experience and maintaining integrity. She also treated the students to a video of her final shuttle mission and talked about some of NASA's plans to return to the moon and explore Mars and beyond.



Courtesy photo

In a league of their own

Junior ROTC Cadets Josh Walker, Brian Hutchinson, Michelle Garwood and Josh Thomasson from WA-20062 at Bethel High School, Wash., present the colors during a Seattle Mariners baseball game April 14. The cadets from Bethel and Spanaway Washington high schools performed in front of more than 25,000 spectators that attended "Salute to Kids Weekend."

Continued on next page

School briefs

Det. 105 raises money for a good cause (ROTC)

BOULDER, Colo. — University of Colorado cadets at Det. 105 raised more than \$4,000 for the Diana Price-Fish Cancer Foundation during its first Thunderchief 5k Run last month. More than 135 people participated in the run.

“The run was a tremendous success,” explained Cadet Melany Ogden. “The event was planned and executed entirely by the cadet corps and every cadet participated whether they were runners, route marshals or race directors. The success of this year’s race, especially since it was the first time the corps held a project this large, reflects highly on our dedication and effort.”

Det. 630 cadets, Junior ROTC students have field day (ROTC)

KENT, Ohio. — More than 190 Junior ROTC cadets from Ohio and Western Pennsylvania participated in Kent State University - Det. 630’s Field Day March 17.

Cadet Courtney Redman said the Junior ROTC cadets participated in a variety of activities ranging from ultimate frisbee and tug-of-war to a friendly physical training competition.

“There was also a drill down competition where the Junior ROTC cadets were tested on military bearing and basic drill movements as well as a creative drill competition where each unit created and executed unique routines,” she said.

Looking back at his own experience, Cadet Nickolas Kulesza, a junior ROTC cadet and former participant in the Junior ROTC exchange with Det. 630, said this year’s event surpassed any of the events held when he was in the high school program.

Det. 490 practices ATSO (ROTC)

NEWARK, N.J. — Ten cadets from Det. 490, New Jersey Institute of Technology tested their ability to survive and operate in a chemical or biological environment during a visit to McGuire Air Force Base here Feb. 17.

While at the base’s nuclear, biological



Air Force/Capt. Chris Victoria

Words of advice

Tech. Sgt. John Patrick, a 322nd Training Squadron military training instructor, gives advice to Cadet Tina Adam about her command voice during a brief visit to Texas State University in March. Four training instructors from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, visited Det. 840 to educate cadets on the importance of military professionalism.

and chemical training facility, Cadet Ryan Price said he and his classmates learned about the history of chemical warfare, the different types used and its role in the 21st century.

Additionally, cadets were given a lesson on the chemical protective mask and nerve agent antidote autoinjectors.

After going through the training, cadets got their hand dirty by simulating an attack and going through all the force protection, mission oriented protective postures and decontamination steps.

“This was a great opportunity for cadets to get hands on training on topics they had only been able to read about in their Airman’s Manual,” explained Cadet Price.

University of Maryland cadets learn urban warfare (ROTC)

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — More than 20 cadets from Det. 330, University of Maryland got training from seasoned Army

veterans with experience in Iraq during a nine-hour urban warfare orientation exercise March 3.

Cadets learned how to clear rooms for potential enemies and shown how to use the M-16 rifle in close quarter combat.

Cadet Lucas Matyi said after getting initial training, he and other cadets went through an exercise with mock terrorists, reporters and innocent bystanders.

“Each scenario was different and each group had to think on their feet about how they would approach each situation,” he said.

In the end, cadets like Joshua Rountree said the training was a memorable experience that could be crucial in a life or death experience in the future.

“It was an absolute blast being able to experience what our forces are doing overseas,” he said. “I now have a better understanding of what they go through and what a great job they perform for the country.” 

PAYING TRIBUTE



Matthew La Porte

1986-2007



Courtesy/Col. Rock Roszak

Virginia Tech honor guard cadets fold the American Flag during Cadet Matthew La Porte's funeral April 23. The flag was then presented to Cadet La Porte's family. Matthew La Porte was killed in a mass shooting at the school April 16 that took 32 student and faculty members' lives.



Courtesy/Michael Kiernan

Hundreds of Virginia Tech cadets from all service branches attended Cadet La Porte's funeral in Blacksburg, Va., April 23.



Courtesy/John McCormick

At the end of the funeral service, Cadet La Porte's classmates placed their white Presidential Citation cords on their classmate's casket.

Virginia Tech cadet laid to rest

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
Air University Public Affairs

More than 1,000 people from across the country came to say their final farewell to a son, friend, and fellow cadet - Matthew La Porte.

The 20-year-old sophomore from Virginia Tech's Det. 875 was laid to rest April 23 during a military burial ceremony provided by Carson Long Military Institute cadets and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets honor guard.

Col. Dan Lentz, Cadet La Porte's detachment commander, said La Porte was a dedicated cadet who excelled at physical

fitness.

"Matthew was working hard to prepare for ROTC field training this summer, and he was committed to serving as an officer in the Air Force when he graduated," he said.

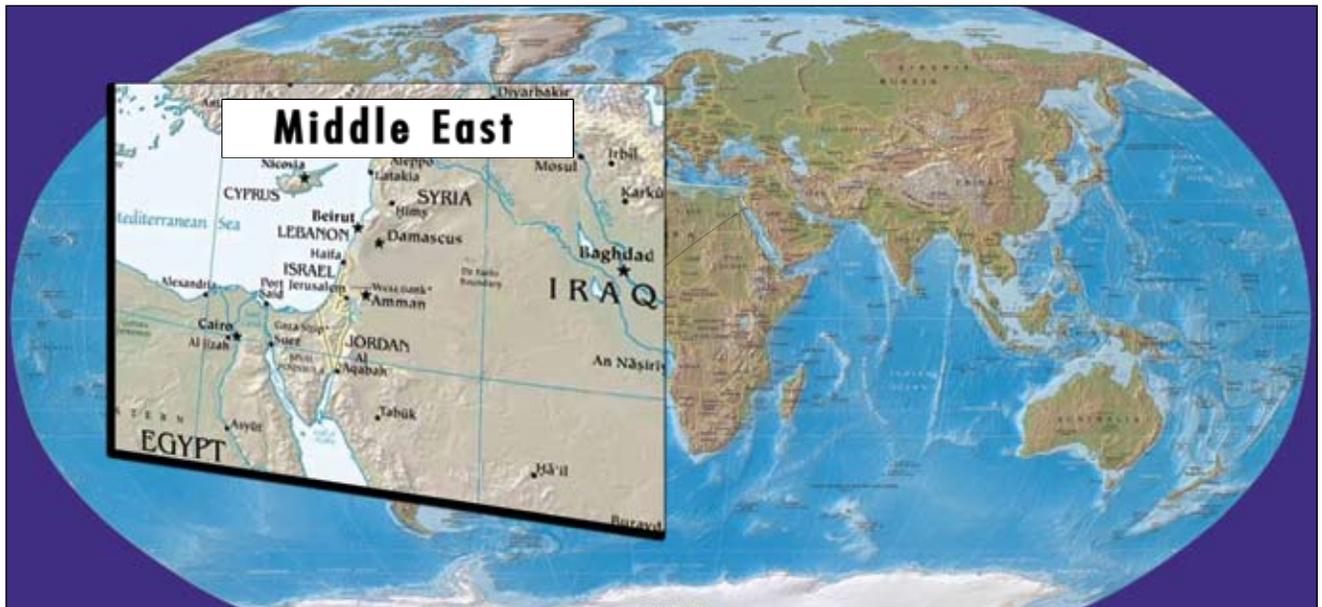
Cadet Robert Mason, who was Cadet La Porte's platoon sergeant and pallbearer during the funeral said he will always remember Matt for his dedication to fitness as a flight physical fitness officer.

"He was a physical training stud," Cadet Mason said of his former classmate. "He looked scrawny, but he could 'PT' all day long and would not give up."

Looking back on his experiences work-

ing with "Matt," Cadet Mason said he wished he could have had a little more time to get to know his classmate from Dumont, N.J.

"I want my fellow Air Force cadets to know the most important thing you can do in school is get to know each other and build up the bonds of brotherhood and camaraderie that hold our organization together," he said. "My biggest regret about Matt's death is that all the times I saw him and worked with him, I didn't take the time to get to know him like I should have. I wish I could have only a few more minutes to actually talk to him and learn more about him personally." 



Air Force art/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Cadet experiences life in Israeli military

Cadet James Wenninger

Det. 440 - University of Missouri—Columbia

Last summer I had the pleasure of visiting the State of Israel.

However, this wasn't the average student's trip abroad. I didn't stay at hotels, nor did I take tours every day. During my stay in Israel, I participated in an international program called Sar-El.

Sar-El takes individuals from across the world to do volunteer work alongside the Israeli Defense Force.

I spent three and a half weeks in Israel and loved every minute of it. My fellow volunteers and I were sent to a naval base called Betzet, in Haifa, where we organized uniforms, packed food to be sent off to soldiers, and did other sorts of manual labor.

The days were long, but the amazingly friendly Israelis made the hard work quite bearable. Almost all of them were the same age, since almost all Israelis conscript right out of high school.

The Israeli military is both remarkably similar to America's and yet distinctly unique. A different dynamic exists as Israel's army is made up of young people from vividly different cultures in part due to the state's indiscriminate conscription policy.

In the same unit you will find Muslims, Jews, and Christians with a mix of nationalities from Arab, Israeli, Russian, and even American.

Every day began and ended with reveille and retreat. I also found other traditions from other militaries existed in Israel as well (such as playing pranks on new officers).

Despite all the work and time spent getting to know our allies in the Middle East, the Sar-El volunteers still had time to see the astounding country of Israel.

In the evenings and on the weekends, a pair of soldiers acted as guides and took us across the country.

I swam in the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, toured Jerusalem, got lost in the Arabic bazaar of Akko, sunburned in the Jordanian Desert, and used what few phrases of Hebrew I knew to try to meet

girls in Tel Aviv.

When the time came for me to leave, I found myself missing Israel even before I stepped onto the plane at the airport.

The experience of being in such a different culture and seeing firsthand the way another country's military works was truly amazing.

I learned a lot of lessons and I will carry those lessons with me into my life as a future officer in the United States Air Force and as an American. 🧡



Courtesy photo

Cadet James Wenninger poses for a photo in front of an Israeli cargo truck while participating in the international exchange program with Israeli Defense Forces called Sar-El.



Like father, like son, like grandson

Family commissions third generation AF officer



Latah Eagle/Kai Eiselein

Col. Robert M. Hogan (left) pins second lieutenant bars on his son, Robert M. Hogan Jr., (center). Lieutenant Hogan's grandfather, retired Lt. Col. Robert J. Hogan also helped pin on "butter bars."

Submitted by Det. 905, University of Idaho/Washington State University

The Hogan family has served their country and the Air Force for more than 60 years.

A third generation Air Force officer in the Hogan family was commissioned recently as Robert M. Hogan Jr. graduated from the University of Idaho where he was a Reserve Officer Training Corps Det. 905 cadet.

Second Lt. Hogan recited the commissioning oath with his father, Col. Robert "Mike" Hogan, and was pinned by his grandfather, retired Lt. Col. Robert J. Hogan.

Lieutenant Hogan's grandfather began his military career shortly after the start of World War II, enlisting in the Army in the fall of 1942 at the age of 19. His long time ambition of becoming a pilot came true

when he completed flight training at Eagle Pass, Texas, was awarded his wings, and was promoted to second lieutenant.

During World War II, Lieutenant Colonel Hogan trained cadets in advanced flying in the T-6 Texan and P-40 Warhawk. In the later years of World War II, he flew the B-29 Super Fortress and the B-17 Flying Fortress. He also participated in the "Crossroads Project," (an atomic bomb test in the Pacific in 1946), as a member of the 393rd Bomb Squadron, commanded by Col. Paul W. Tibbets, who dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. As a captain, Hogan's grandfather flew 140 missions in the Berlin Airlift, piloting the C-54 and was awarded the Air Medal for outstanding service. It was while at Wiesbaden that Colonel Hogan was born.

Like his father, Colonel Hogan has had a distinguished career in the Air Force. He was "pinned" by his father in 1978 after graduating from Officer Training School.

Assigned to the security police career field, his first tour of duty was the 81st Security Police Squadron, Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

For the next 23 years Colonel Hogan served as a Security Forces officer at base, major command, headquarters Air Force, and a Joint Task Force as a shift commander, operations officer, commander and staff actions officer. His assignments included England, Germany, Turkey, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Texas, Mississippi and Virginia. In 2002, the colonel was the United States Air Force Attaché in Quito, Ecuador.

Currently, Colonel Hogan serves as the University of Nevada - Las Vegas, ROTC Det. 004 commander.

As Lieutenant Hogan starts off his career at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, he says it has been a dream come true to follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps serving his country as an Air Force officer. 



Cadet Antonio Thompson, from Prattville High School's Junior ROTC unit AL-951, calls cadence as his column of cadets march in a drill demonstration April 30. Members of the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools staff participated in various activities April 30-May 4 highlighting all echelons of the organization. (Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Jason Lake)

LEADING THE WAY

AFOATS celebrates 10 years

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
Air University Public Affairs

In 1997, Hong Kong was turned over from British to Chinese rule, Princess Diana died in a car wreck, and “Dolly,” the sheep was successfully cloned by scientists.

Three of the Air Force’s leadership training programs – ROTC, Officer Training School and Junior ROTC – were also joined together to create what is now the Air Force Officer Accessions and Training Schools.

Earlier this month members of the AFOATS staff celebrated their organization’s 10th anniversary with a series of events and festivities.

The AFOATS community kicked off the week-long celebration with a formal retreat and visit to Prattville High School’s Junior ROTC AL-951 unit. Throughout the rest of the week staff members also visited Tuskegee University’s ROTC Detachment 15 and held a picnic for all staff members to enjoy.

“The anniversary celebration was a great success and couldn’t have gone any better, said Capt. Alejandro Rangel, chairman of anniversary activities. “Everyone in AFOATS is so busy and many of us don’t have an opportunity to see how our efforts truly impact a young person’s life. During our anniversary week our AFOATS staff had several opportunities to see first-hand how important their work really is. Whether it was a Junior ROTC cadet, a ROTC cadet, or an officer trainee attending OTS, we had it all for them

to see.”

Brig. Gen. Alfred Flowers who took command of AFOATS in January said one of his most ambitious goals is to educate and inform not only the general public, but Airmen worldwide, about what the organization provides for the country.

“Our goal is to increase awareness [about our organization] and educate people about what we bring to the nation,” General Flowers explained. “Last fiscal year, AFOATS commissioned approximately 75 percent of the Air Force officers through OTS and ROTC.”

Over the past 10 years, more than 22,000 college students and 11,000 basic officer trainees have been commissioned through the ROTC and OTS commissioning programs (respectively). Additionally, more than 13,000 medical professionals, chaplains and legal officers have been trained through OTS’ commissioned and reserve commissioned officer training programs.

“AFOATS is truly a Total Force contributor,” General Flowers explained. “These [young officers] will be the fighters of the next war.”

The AFOATS “leadership arm” also extends to high school students under the Junior ROTC program. Since its merge under AFOATS in 1997, the Air Force Junior ROTC program has expanded from approximately 600 units worldwide to nearly 900 today.

“It’s our goal to create leaders and citizens of character,” said Col. Norman Balchunas, Junior ROTC director. “There are some people who mistake the Junior ROTC program as a military training and recruiting program, but that is not the case. We provide high school students with leadership opportunities and show them how they can



Courtesy photo

Since ROTC was consolidated into Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools more than 22,000 college students have been commissioned into the Air Force.

better contribute to society.”

General Flowers said that combining the three pillars – OTS, ROTC and Junior ROTC – under one roof has proven very beneficial for sharing ideas and expertise with tomorrow’s leaders.

“It’s amazing how AFOATS has evolved into a more shared common experience for officer trainees and America’s youth,” he explained. “One of the key pillars of AFOATS is the curriculum department which is charged with providing all instructional materials for OTS, ROTC and Junior ROTC.”

Looking ahead to the future, General Flowers said there are plans for implementing more shared common experiences between ROTC and OTS officer development courses with the creation of an Officer Training Center of Excellence. There are also discussions ongoing regarding the collocation of today’s Academy of Military Science for Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard officer trainees. This plan, however, is still in the discussion stage.

One of the earliest steps of this process will be the consolidation of all Air Force ROTC field training to Maxwell Air Force Base by the summer of 2009. Field training ended at Tyndall AFB, Fla., last year and next fiscal year will be the final year for training at Ellsworth AFB, S.D. 🙏

FLAG RETIREMENTS: WHY DO WE DO IT?

By Cadet Rebecca Popper
Det. 780, South Dakota State University

Some may wonder why we hold a retirement ceremony for the American Flag. The short answer - an important act like this evokes pride and respect for our flag, and our flag must always be addressed with the dignity it deserves.

Federal law requires certain etiquette to be enforced when it comes to the American Flag, otherwise referred to as the Flag Code.

The final statement in this code states: "When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner."

However, the history and significance is lost in this translation.

Our flag has stood tall throughout its history and has always been a monument for freedom. In May 1776, General Washington visited Betsy Ross with a rough design of the flag. It wasn't until June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress approved the flag we know today as "Stars and Stripes."

The very first flag consisted of 13 stars and 13 stripes for our original colonies. In 1818, Congress passed legislation requiring that the number of stars be equal to the number of states. Hawaii was the final star added to the flag on July 4, 1960.

Today the flag consists of thirteen horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with 6 white. The 13 stripes represent the original 13 colonies, and the stars represent the 50 states in the Union.

Every part of the flag has a meaning, to include the colors. Red symbolizes hardiness and valor. White symbolizes purity and innocence. The blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Inside the American flag beats the heart of our nation and the hearts of those who laid down their lives for our country.

Respect and honor our flag and all that it represents. 🧣



File photo

“Old Glory is my nickname; proudly I wave on high. Honor me, respect me, and defend me with your lives and your fortunes. Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position lest I never return. Keep alight the fires of patriotism; strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy. I shall remain the bulwark of peace and freedom for all of mankind. For, I am your Flag.”

- Retired Army Col. Daniel K. Cedusky



GETTING INTO THE MINDSET

OTS, ROTC staff prepares for summer training surge

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
Editor, Leader Magazine

Summer break is just around the corner. While most of us are planning our next big vacation during the next few months, Officer Training School and ROTC cadre members are 'digging in' for a busy summer.

According to Maj. Brian Grell, 22nd Training Support Squadron director of operations, OTS staff will train more than 800 commissioned officer trainees between June and August compared to less than 500 COTs throughout the rest of the year. The 'summer surge' is in addition to the constantly running 12-week basic officer trainee program that produces an additional 500 officers each fiscal year.

During the same time period, ROTC

cadre staff are also preparing to process more than 2,600 ROTC cadets who must complete summer field training at either Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. or Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. in order to eventually get commissioned.

Major Grell said the 1,250 ROTC cadets that will be trained at Maxwell will cross paths with their OTS trainee counterparts on certain occasions because they will be sharing facilities.

"OTS provides access to all of our training facilities including the auditoriums, physical conditioning facilities, the Leadership Reaction Course, confidence course, Blue Thunder Air Expeditionary Force site, as well as the dining facility," he explained. "ROTC is considered an 'equal seat at the table' along with our basic officer training and commissioned officer training when it

comes to using OTS resources."

Brig. Gen. Alfred Flowers, Air Force Officer Accessions and Training Schools commander, said in the near future OTS and ROTC training will be even more integrated as the Air Force's largest commissioning organization evolves into a Officer Training School Center of Excellence [see page 12 for more details].

With just a few weeks remaining before the "surge," Maj. Anthony Williams, ROTC training branch chief, said both the OTS and ROTC staff are making final adjustments while gathering course materials, planning activities and schedules and tying up any loose ends.

"Both the ROTC and OTS staff have been working hard and working together to prepare the facilities and staff for the summer surge," he said. "We will be ready." 

HITTING THE BOOKS

Cadets find creative ways to expand AF knowledge

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Editor, Leader Magazine

Charles Dickens once said: “I only ask for information.”

If the famous classical author was a cadet in the ROTC or Junior ROTC

he would be overjoyed to hear that some of his classmates and instructors have taken steps to help quench his thirst for knowledge.

In an effort to increase Air Force education

amongst

his cadets, retired Maj. Paul Willard, commander of Franklin County High School’s VA-20011, helped set up a special military studies section in the school’s library with help from librarian Eric Lawson.

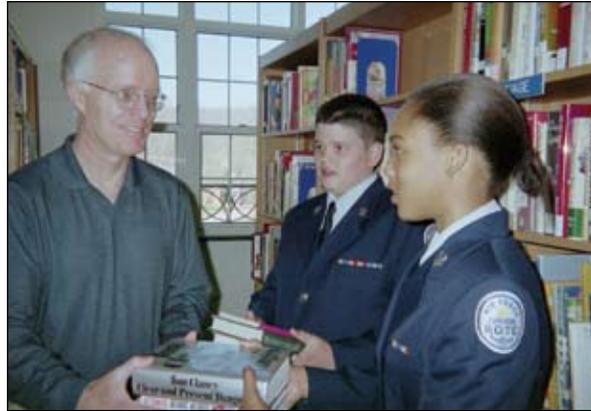
“The upper division cadets were required to perform research in topics related to the Air Force Junior ROTC curriculum,” explained Major Willard. “The new section provides cadets with the resources that would normally not be available at the high school level.”

Major Willard noted that during a recent inspection by Air Force officials, the library’s military studies section was lauded as a “best practice” and recommended for implementation at Junior ROTC units worldwide.

The program has also inspired participation by cadets. After Major

Willard made his initial book donations, several students have also made personal contributions to the military studies section.

ROTC cadets at University of Washington’s Det. 910 have also benefited from a similar program aimed at bolstering its library’s Air Force Chief of Staff Reading List section.



Courtesy/Paul Willard

Eric Lawson receives book donations from Junior ROTC Cadets Brandon Sigmon and Boreika Burwell at Franklin County High School, Rocky Mount, Va.

Cadet Jan-nel Emery reorganized and labeled the library’s more than 700 books so that cadets could easily find information on topics ranging from biographies to military science.

“Each book is individually labeled by

category and number,” explained Cadet Emery. “Before, it was hard to find the book cadets needed for class or that they were interested in reading. Now it can be done in less than a minute.”

Cadet Adam Gregory said the library has become a vital part of cadet wing functions - especially when cadets in Aerospace Studies 300 classes were assigned to do a book report on a book from the CSAF Reading List.

“The cadets read their chosen book, gave a five-to seven-minute briefing about it and wrote a two-to four-page background paper as well,” he explained. “This gave us a chance to learn about Air Force history, important leaders, past wars and conflicts and aspects of leadership.”

Capt. Tammy Ortung, Det. 910 Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies, applauded her cadet’s initiative to help her fellow cadets.

“[The new organization] system is one of the main reasons why the library is becoming so popular among the cadets,” she said. “Cadet Emery has done a profound service to our detachment.” 🙏

TAKING CARE OF THEIR OWN

CADET GETS DISASTER RELIEF FROM JROTC FAMILY

By Phil Berube

Air University Public Affairs

Adrianna Swarez remembers the exact time that her world was ripped apart: 3:56 a.m. on Feb. 2, 2007.

The Junior ROTC cadet and her mom were asleep when one of several tornadoes spawned by a quick-moving storm system through central Florida made a direct hit on their apartment complex in DeLand, about 40 miles north of Orlando.

The freshman cadet at FL-023 doesn't remember much of the actual strike.

"I was sleeping when it hit," she said. "Then I couldn't think, and I was very scared."

Dazed, but otherwise unhurt, Cadet Swarez and her mom made it to a neighbor's house to ride out the rest of the storm and to sort out their next move.

Next door, the 52-unit apartment complex lay in ruin. Her apartment was one of 12 completely destroyed, with 20 others later condemned. The tornado strikes caused tens of millions of dollars in damage in DeLand and killed several people in neighboring communities, according to news reports.

The tornado may have shattered her life that fateful Friday morning, but Cadet Swarez's unit at DeLand High School was quick to rally to her aide to put it back together again.

The following Tuesday, the nearly 190 cadets in the unit started collecting monetary donations, clothing and household items for Cadet Swarez and her mother. Cadets donated their lunch money, allowances and money from part-time jobs. Some of the parents of the cadets also became involved in the relief effort, even encouraging their coworkers and friends to contrib-



Courtesy photo

Cadet Adrianna Swarez from Junior ROTC FL-023 surveys damage to her house shortly after a tornado strike Feb. 2.

ute. All told, more than \$3,400 was collected and a houseful of furnishings was donated.

The compassion displayed by the cadets and their parents was "amazing to watch," said the unit's Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, retired Col. James Pugh.

"The cadets accepted this project because they clearly wanted to," he said. "I just asked them a simple question: 'What do you think about us working together as a team to help Adrianna and her mother?' They gave a resounding 'Yes!'"

A fellow cadet and close personal friend to Cadet Swarez, Brittney Applegate, even contributed her baking talents to the cause, raising more than \$400 through a bake sale.

"I did this for Adrianna and her mother," said Cadet Applegate, "because I know if something would have happened to me, they would have helped me." And they almost had to—a tornado from the same storm system touched down within 50 feet of her home.

For going above and beyond in helping Cadet Swarez and her mom rebuild their lives, Cadet Applegate and Cadets Dwayne Shaw and Patricia Harrigan were rewarded with Air Force Junior ROTC Cadet Hu-

manitarian Awards.

The extended Junior ROTC family also chipped in to help Cadet Swarez. Her unit received monetary donations from headquarters' staff and from units in Louisiana, New Hampshire, Nebraska and Germany.

The cadets' spirit of compassion was also admired by the high school's principal.

"One of the traits of a leader that I admire most is that of servant hood," said Mitch Moyer. "What the cadets, assisted by their parents and Junior ROTC leadership, have done is just that. They have given of their hearts and of their time to meet the needs of others."

Today, Cadet Swarez and her mom have a new place to live. They've picked up the pieces of their lives; however, they will never forget the generosity of their Junior ROTC family.

"The Junior ROTC cadets and their parents made our recovery exceptional," said Cadet Swarez's mom, Ruth Fore. "Adrianna and I feel blessed to have them as part of our lives. They will remain in our hearts forever."

"If it wasn't for them," said Cadet Swarez, "we wouldn't be where we are today." 🧡

FORMER TUSKEGEE AIRMEN SHARE WORK, LIFE EXPERIENCES WITH CADETS

By Carl Bergquist

Air University Public Affairs

In the spirit of mentoring, two former Tuskegee Airmen fighter pilots talked to a group of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets at the Senior NCO Academy April 26.

The 104 cadets, from Selma High School and Southside High School in Dallas County, heard retired Lt. Col. Ernest Craigwell and retired Col. Herbert Carter recall their military experiences and listened to advice they gave.

“You are going to be lied to all your life, but through education you will gain the intelligence to know who is lying to you and who is not,” Colonel Craigwell said. “I tell you this because that knowledge will be valuable to you in the pursuit of your goals. It isn’t always easy to do what you want with your life, but, whatever it is, it can be done if you want it badly enough.”

Retired Lt. Col. Steve Ruiz, senior aerospace science instructor for Southside High School, served as master of ceremony for the event and introduced the Red-Tails as “living legends.”

“As a student of history, this is a subject I have taught and studied for many years, and it is a thrill for me to be here with two Tuskegee Airmen,” he said.

Colonel Carter was one of the original members of the 99th Fighter Group, also known as the Tuskegee Airmen, and during World War II flew 77 missions in P-40 Warhawks, P-47 Thunderbolts and P-51 Mustangs. Following the war, he spent 27 years in the Air Force in the aircraft maintenance field before retiring.

“The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of young men who were visionaries,” Colonel Carter said. “They saw themselves as different from their parents and grandparents, and while draft boards were sending them to fight in the trenches, they felt they could serve their country better and dreamed a dream that they could fly.”

Colonel Carter said the Army had different ideas, and when WWII broke out, it announced it had no plans to use black members for flying missions. He said it remained the aspiring pilots’ task to prove their worth to the military and the nation.

“Excellence and performance are keys to your success in life,” Colonel Carter told the young cadets. “Your legacy is what you make it, and it is wise at your age to start preparing your legacy by studying and learning.”

Colonel Craigwell joined the Tuskegee Airmen about two months after Germany surrendered and didn’t serve during WWII. But he would go on to fly 401 combat missions in Korea and Vietnam.

He said he flew 100 missions for the Air Force in Korea, then

was assigned to help the South Korean government set up an air force. In that effort, he flew another 100 missions for Korea. Another 200 missions were flown during the Vietnam war.

“It is important to talk to the Junior ROTC cadets because our story is getting lost,” he said. “We could leave it to the next generation to tell the story, but the next generation doesn’t know my story as well as I do.”

Colonel Craigwell said he felt the country is just now ready to “look WWII in the face” and accept it for what it was. He hoped that would lead to a better understanding of what the Tuskegee Airmen were and did.

“I’m 80 years old and was born in New York City to immigrant parents from Barbados,” Colonel Craigwell told the audience. “I was always interested in aviation. I don’t know where that came from, but it was a goal I wanted to accomplish in my life. A goal is only

good if you do something with it.”

He told the group that one of the best things they could get out of education is the ability to think and reason.

When asked if he was scared during his combat missions, Colonel Craigwell said there are times in everyone’s lives when they are scared.

“I’m scared of everything,” he jokingly told the cadets. “There isn’t a pilot alive who won’t tell you there were times when he was scared, but I think I feared failure the most. Fear is good because when you have fear you see better, you hear better, you run faster, but what is most important is what you do with that fear.”

Colonel Craigwell said during his active duty career, getting the job done was what counted for him, and he learned to put things into that perspective. He said competence in doing the job was also a key factor.

“Competence is what’s important. That guy I’m looking at hiring may be black, but if he is incompetent, I don’t want him. Another guy may be purple and have a third eye in the middle of his forehead, but if he is competent, I do want him,” he said. “It all comes down to being professional.”

Colonel Carter told the young cadets the world would soon be theirs, and they should prepare for that responsibility. They could be doctors, nurses, engineers or whatever they wanted, but how their lives turned out was their choice.

“You will take the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen with you into the 21st century,” he said. “You need to prepare now because you are the captains of your own ship.”

Col. Norm Balchunas, Air Force Junior ROTC director, said he’s glad the cadets were able to hear from aviation legends like Colonels Carter and Craigwell and get their historic perspective.

“We echo what these gentlemen had to say and are trying to impart their message to cadets everyday,” he said. 

Fast Facts

❑ The first black pilot started training in July 1941 at Tuskegee Airfield in Tuskegee, Ala., and five of the 13 original trainees graduated in March 1942.

❑ From 1942 through 1946, nearly 1,000 pilots completed training at Tuskegee.

❑ Approximately 450 pilots served in either the 99th Fighter Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group overseas during World War II.

Junior ROTC cadets get 'taste' of European combat, history



Courtesy photo

UK-932 and UK-073 cadets charge into battle during a simulated battle at the Tank Museum of Bovington April 3. The high school students from London Central and Lakenheath high schools took a four-day trip to see many of the United Kingdom's historic sites and museums.

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
Editor, Leader Magazine

With the pungent smell of smoke and the thunderous sound of artillery shells exploding all around, cadets from UK-932 and UK-073 got a chance to experience European combat up close and personal during a visit to the Tank Museum of Bovington.

Approximately 25 cadets from the two Junior ROTC units in the United Kingdom got a rare chance to participate in a live pyrotechnic tank battle and see some of England's historic sites during a four-day trip last month.

The group of students from London Central High and Lakenheath High School also toured the historic dockyards at Portsmouth to see the HMS Victory, the British flagship during the crucial Battle of Trafalgar in the Napoleonic War of 1805.

Retired Col. John Quandt, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor for UK-932, said the students also tested their survival skills while camping out each night.

"The cadets learned organization and



Courtesy photo

Cadet Fu-chiung Chang poses for a photo in front of a World War II German Panther tank during a visit to the Tank Museum of Bovington April 3.

teamwork in setting up the camp site, putting meals together, cleaning up after meals and participating in activities within time schedules," he explained.

"They also learned that some cadets took a lot longer to get themselves ready in the

morning than others."

Colonel Quandt added that the trip also showed students specific examples of leadership and management theory that created discussions with some of the Junior ROTC instructors that came along.

For UK-932, the trip, which took them to see many things such as the infamous Stonehenge, was bittersweet since this would be one of the unit's final activities before shutting down.

"Two years ago more than 1,000 U.S. Navy slots in London were transferred to Naples, Italy, and school enrollment declined greatly," explained Colonel Quandt. "Last year, U.S. European Command decided to close the school's dormitory this coming June, which will further reduce enrollment."

The decision was made, at that point, to close London Central High School.

Looking back on their time spent at LCHS, Cadet "Brenna Seger" said she was glad to have the opportunity to be part of the Air Force Junior ROTC program.

"I will miss the friendships made and the leadership that was taught. I will have many happy memories. It has been a life-changing experience." 



Cadet Candace Childress from Junior ROTC AL-951 at Prattville High School performs a V-Sit Reach exercise prior to a flexibility test. AL-951 cadets conduct physical fitness once a week for 90 minutes and also stresses the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle at all times.

Shaping Up



JROTC IMPLEMENTS NEW FITNESS STRATEGY

**Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Scott Moorman**
Air University Public Affairs

Air Force Junior ROTC cadets around the globe are gritting their teeth and raising their heart rates as they step up to the Extreme Excellence Challenge-Wellness Program.

The program is a new addition to Junior ROTC curriculum and affects 105,000 cadets at 869 units.

“We want our cadets to open up all the doors they can in their lives,” said Col. Norman Balchunas, Air Force Junior ROTC director. “Their physical limitations should not be ones imposed by poor example and learned lifestyle choices.”

According to a recent National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey of 11,000 high school students, only 37 percent exercise regularly. The American Obesity Association reported 30.4 percent of children ages 12 to 19 are overweight and 15.5 percent are considered obese.

“Although E2C was initiated because it’s the right thing to do for the cadets, it has postured Air Force Junior ROTC to better meet state requirements for physical education,” said Maj. Charles Kaiser, Air Force Junior ROTC Junior Policy. “One of the problems with the “single subject” activities such as marching band, drill team and cheerleading has been their lack of coverage of life-long skills. Junior ROTC has been covering these for years in our leadership training—now we’re making sure they’re more visible to high school administration officials. In fact, each lesson will include references that equate or match up to applicable national PE standards.”

The wellness program is tailored to meet individual cadet’s fitness needs. It incorporates 20 exercises including five abdominal exercises, four styles of push-ups, lunges, squats and a one-mile run. The one-mile run is the only portion of the E2C program that is dependant on the weather.

Included in the wellness program is an individually designed 36-week work-out routine that is tailor-made for each student to help them reach personal fitness goals.

With the new E2C movement, the cadets, participating in the program, are given an initial assessment at the beginning of the school year to determine their physical fitness baseline. Their results are compiled in a database that will provide a personal a work-out routine that will take them through out the academic year. The database also shows cadets where they are compared to a national standard - which is based on the cadet’s age and gender.

“No other program is tailored to the individual, has the level of expertise inherent in our instructors, or meets as many requirements across 869 schools,” explained Paul Keeping, a Junior ROTC Operations Support education technician. “It’s built for long term change.”

In addition to physical fitness, the program incorporates mental and spiritual wellness.

“Sometimes people really do face things that seem insurmountable in life; what then,” said Chap. (Capt.) Dan Forman Air Force Junior ROTC chaplain. “How do our cadets prepare for such challenges that seem overwhelming? The answer lies in the spiritual dimension. Again, it is not our place to define that element for folks, but we would be truly remiss not to include it in a program that focuses on making cadets fit to be better citizens and to face life and all its challenges.”

E2C also considers cadet safety. Students and instructors must comply with school district policy concerning physical and extracurricular activity.

“Safety is the most important aspect of the program, and instructors will be required to be CPR certified prior to the start of school,” said Mr. Keeping. “In addition to the CPR certification cadets will need to provide a participation consent form signed by their parent or guardian before their child can start the E2C Wellness Program.” 🙏



AL-951 Cadet David Johnson performs a standard situp during unit physical training April 2. Cadet Johnson and 54 of his fellow cadets conducted unit physical fitness as part of their unit's curriculum. Air Force Junior ROTC officials are promoting a new and improved unit fitness plan called "E2C," which helps cadets adopt a healthy lifestyle.



SOUND OFF: AL-951 Cadet Nathan Oswalt (right) yells out cadence to keep his fellow cadets in-sync while running one mile.

STRETCH: (From left to right) AL-951 Cadets Quiniqua Hampton, Kevin Lamar and Charlie Nixon perform V-Sit reaches as part of their unit physical training program.



Cadet Timothy Park performs knee lifts during the warm up portion of unit physical training.

Junior ROTC, Reservists celebrate 60th Air Force birthday with a bang

By Master Sgt. Stan Coleman

Air University Public Affairs

Blue, green, black and tan were the colors of the day when Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets visited Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., for its annual Junior ROTC orientation flight event.

More than 3,400 cadets from Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and South Carolina high schools enjoyed C-130 orientation flights, static displays, the Air Force Reserve Jet Car, and various Air Force aircraft, during their visit to Dobbins in celebration of the Air Force's 60th Anniversary March 12-15.

Reservists, recruiters and air reserve technicians supported the "Heritage to Horizons" anniversary theme by interacting and talking to the cadets. The 94th Security Forces Squadron, the 94th Honor Guard, 94th Aerial Delivery Flight and 94th Aero-medical Evacuation Squadron medical team were among the most visited exhibits, along with the Air Force Jet Car.

There were intense observations as



Air Force/Don Peek

Staff Sgt. Anthony Cooper, 700th Airlift Squadron, waits to receive Junior ROTC cadets after completing a C-130 Hercules orientation flight. BELOW LEFT: Retired Master Sgt. Bill Braack shows cadets the horsepower behind the Air Force Reserve Jet Car as it thunders down the flight line.

cadets explored the intricate details of a jet engine and got a first-hand look at the flight console, and weapons system controls of an A-10.

"The A-10 is incredible," said Cadet Jessica Harrison from Ridgeland High School in Walker County Georgia. "I never realized that there was so much involved with a pilot's control of an aircraft."

Cadet Harrison plans to join the Air Force Office of Special Investigations after majoring in law enforcement in college. When asked how she knows so much about OSI, she replied, "I looked it up online and talked to recruiters."

"It's all about training the next generation," said Maj. Terry McClain, 47th Fighter Squadron A-10 Thunderbolt pilot and air reserve technician from Barksdale Air Reserve Base, La. "We don't get to serve in the military forever. We have to prepare our young people to take our place."

"Our unit's yearly visit to Dobbins allows cadets to witness the responsibilities Air Force personnel, especially the younger enlisted, have with aircraft maintenance and other career fields,"

said retired Lt. Col.

Bernie

Booth, Hiram High School senior Army instructor.

"This year's event, Junior ROTC Orientation Week, is expanded from its regular two days and 40 schools to four days and 80-plus schools," said Master Sgt. John Grutzmacher, 700th Airlift Squadron flight training unit manager and committee chairman for Junior ROTC Week.

"It takes a lot of moving pieces to make this type of event a reality," said Sergeant Grutzmacher. "It's a matter of coordinating the aircraft with the large number of visiting cadets and telling the history of our service."

Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick, 22nd Air Force commander, members of the Atlanta Chapter Tuskegee Airmen, 94th Airlift Wing senior leaders, and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley shared their viewpoints with cadets on Air Force heritage.

"It is important that military members—active duty, reservists, and retired—provide a snapshot of what the military has to offer," said retired Air Force Lt. Col. James Wilson, Marietta High School Senior Aerospace science instructor. "The Heritage to Horizons event at Dobbins provided the cadets an opportunity to get close to the aircraft and [explore] career opportunities, such as security forces and disaster preparedness. Kids today need mentors. We're mentors as well as teachers." 🙏

Junior ROTC has special meaning to one cadet

By Judy Bastien

The Daily Advertiser - Lafayette, La.

Jace Trahan returned to Memphis on April 3.

But this time, it wasn't for a stay in St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, where he spent all of 2006 and part of 2007.

This time, the 17-year-old Acadiana High School student went back to the city to participate in the opening ceremonies of a NBA game between the Memphis Grizzlies and Phoenix Suns.

Trahan carried the Louisiana flag as part of a five-person Air Force Junior ROTC color guard that presented the state flag, the Air Force flag and the American flag as the national anthem was sung.

"We had 40 students traveling, said retired Master Sgt. Tina Viltz, an instructor for Acadiana High's Junior ROTC unit LA-20025. The other 35 students were part of a fan tunnel that welcomed the team onto the court."

The road to the NBA game was a long one for Trahan. He was diagnosed with

acute lymphoblastic leukemia in November 2005 and entered St. Jude shortly after that. When chemotherapy failed to put him in remission, Trahan received his mother, Ann's bone marrow in a transplant in July 2006.

It was a long, slow recovery for Trahan, who is still taking anti-rejection medications, which suppress his immune system. He can be seen around the Acadiana High campus, wearing a blue surgical mask to protect him from airborne bacteria that could cause life-threatening infections. He removes it only occasionally and only for short periods of time for instance, when he won the "Most Comical" title in a recent downtown Mardi Gras costume contest. The contest has been a yearly event in Trahan's life since he was six months old.

It was only the week before the class trip that Trahan got the OK from his doctor at St. Jude to participate in the presentation of the colors. And there was one stipulation, he wasn't allowed to ride on the bus with his fellow ROTC cadets, for fear of the stray germ that could threaten

his progress. He and his mother, Ann, rode with retired Air Force Col. Glen Rudd, an Junior ROTC instructor at Acadiana High, and Rudd's wife, Linda.

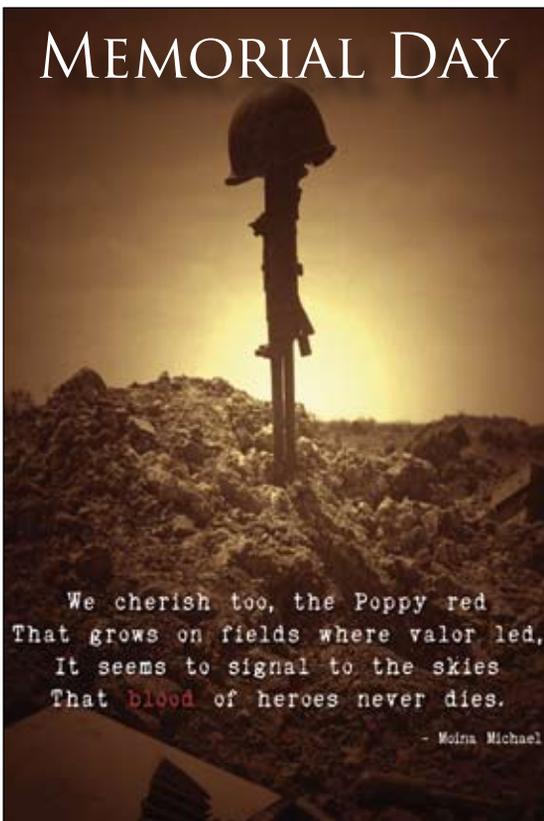
On Thursday, Trahan visited Graceland with the group, but he had to opt out of a trip to the zoo because of possible exposure to bacteria. Instead, he and his mother visited their friends at St. Jude.

Still, the trip has been a triumph of sorts for the cadet. "That was a special thing for him to do and to be with his class, again," Ann Trahan said over her cell phone from a Memphis restaurant. "He's sitting at a table with the other kids. He's so happy."

Fully recovered, Jace will return to his Junior ROTC unit next fall as a cadet major.

His last attendance in a unit function before his diagnosis in November 2005, was leading his flight in the unit's yearly Veteran's Day ceremony.

Some cadets have come and gone since Jace left, but all of them are ready to welcome him back home to his unit and to Acadiana High School. 



FINAL ISSUE

This is the last issue of Leader magazine for the academic year, but we look forward to hearing from your unit over summer break. To submit an article for the next issue this fall, e-mail:

LEADER@MAXWELL.AF.MIL

Some of the requirements to keep in mind:

- Photo resolution should be at least 200 dpi at 5x7 inches.
- Photos should show as much action as possible, be in focus, and have facial recognition of the highlighted individual(s).
- Photo submissions should also include name, unit and description of actions highlighted.
- Articles should focus on one event or concept and should include author's name and location.

For more guidance about Leader magazine submissions, visit:

**WWW.AFOATS.AF.MIL/
LEADER/SUBMISSIONS**

Four star general reunites with first Air Force mentors

By Staff Sgt.

Jason Lake

Editor, Leader magazine

Gen. Bruce Carlson said he still remembers the first time his ROTC detachment's senior aerospace science instructor walked into the room.

"We all stood nervously at attention and he said to us, 'I want to get to know each of you on a first name basis ... call me sir,'" General Carlson recalled with a chuckle.

The former Det. 420 - University of Minnesota, Duluth, cadet was reunited with two of his ROTC instructors after 36 years during a visit to Maxwell Air Force Base Tuesday.

General Carlson, currently commander of Air Force Materiel Command, met with retired Lt. Cols. William Desmond Jr. and Philip Alker who came from nearby Prattville, Ala., to talk with their former cadet.

General Carlson credits his successful rise to the Air Force's top leadership tier because of the lessons he learned during his time spent in the ROTC commissioning program.

"I came from a small town and had no military background," General Carlson explained. "Whatever [training] I got, I got from them. They were remarkable examples of what it meant to be a professional officer."

"I think all of us who worked at the detachment knew that the general would have a future as a leader," said Mr. Desmond, who had more than a decade of experience training young Airmen as a former military training instructor. "He is the same [person] today as he was 36 years ago. Listening to him talk [to Air War College students] brought back so many memories of the way he presented himself."

General Carlson, a native of Hibbing, Minn., was also a distinguished graduate of his ROTC class.

"Part of training was speaking and he had a wonderful gift for that," Mr. Desmond added. "When he prepared himself for a presentation it was sheer perfection – every detail was covered."

"I taught him how to speak," Mr. Alker jokingly fired back as the three reminisced together in the Air War College lounge.

Despite being charged with managing the research, development, testing and acquisition of the Air Force's premier weapons systems, General Carlson has not forgotten his roots at Det. 420.

"I have great memories of my time as a cadet," he said. "We worked hard, but we also had a great time."

Over the last few years, he has revisited his alma mater detachment on several occasions – including a dining-in ceremony last fall.

"That's an inspiration for all the young [cadets] attending the University of Minnesota, Duluth," explained Mr. Desmond. "To see one of their own become successful, that's a lot of motivation and inspiration."

General Carlson said cadets can lead a successful Air Force career by simply sticking to their ROTC core lessons and broadening themselves through experience.

"Try to realize that when you graduate, you don't need to be the smartest Airmen in the Air Force," he explained. "What's important is that you know what it means to be a professional officer and always follow the Air Force Core Values." 



Courtesy photo

Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Scott Moorman

RIGHT: Gen. Bruce Carlson, Air Force Materiel Command commander, shares a laugh with retired Lt. Col. William Desmond Jr. during a visit to Maxwell Air Force Base April 17. General Carlson reunited with two of his former Det. 420 - University of Minnesota, Duluth, ROTC instructors after more than 36 years. Gen. Carlson was a distinguished graduate from the detachment in 1971. Not pictured is retired Lt. Col. Philip Alker. AT LEFT: General Carlson (left) as a ROTC cadet.



Field report is a forum for cadets and trainees looking for answers from experienced Air Force officers. To submit a question concerning specific job and deployment experience, e-mail leader@maxwell.af.mil.

FIELD REPORT!

How does a Combined Air Operations Center work? Does it really coordinate all aircraft in a particular theater?

The current hub of air operations in the U.S. Central Command's operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa is the Combined Air Operations Center (kay-ok) in Southwest Asia. It plans, executes and assesses the majority of all air operations throughout the theater, including fighters, bombers, reconnaissance, and mobility aircraft. This also includes coordination of sister service, especially U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, and coalition partner aircraft, including British, Australian and French.

The CAOC in SWA is run by the Combined Forces Air Component Commander, (currently Lt. Gen. Gary North) who is the Air Component expert for the Joint Force Commander/USCENTCOM commander, similar to commanders dedicated for the land (CFLCC) and the maritime (CFMCC) components. The CFACC has a combined forces staff to help plan and execute the air war.

However, the CFACC does not control all the airpower in the theater. For instance, the U.S. Marine Corps plans and executes a majority of its airpower to support Marine Corps operations, but if the Marines have not fully dedicated its airpower to Marine Corps operations, it provides additional assets for the CFACC to use to support Joint Force or Component Commander priorities. Also, the CFACC does not control, for instance, U.S. Army helicopters, which support ground operations, but the CFACC controls helicopters for Joint Combat Search and Rescue missions.



1st Lt. Lucas Eby

Deployed duty title:

407th Provost Marshal Office operations officer

Deployed Location:

Ali Air Base, Iraq

Home station:

Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

Years of service:

2 years

Hometown:

Orofino, Idaho

AF school graduated:

Graduated from the Kansas State University, Kan., in 2004

Deployment experience:

This is my first field deployment, but I've also attended security forces basic officer course at Lackland and two weeks deployment training at Indian Springs, Nev.

How is the field environment different than home station operations?

The field differs from home station operations based on

actual threats that exist, the focus of law and order mission and type of people that we deal with. On a daily basis we enforce law and order on people from more than a dozen different nationalities, which is nothing like home station.

What has been the biggest challenge at your current location?

Language barriers, different rules and regulations for each nationality and the fact that we report and work for both the Army and Air Force are just some of the challenges here.

What advice do you have for future AF officers?

Those interested in the security forces career field (31PX) need to seriously consider the impact this job has on family life and your career. The path of this career field is taking longer and more frequent deployments. The job is very rewarding and as an officer, you'll be able to take the challenge of leading anywhere between 20 to 100 troops. 



Kadena Air Base, Japan

Mission: Deliver unmatched airpower and forward-based staging capabilities, provide sovereign options that promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region. The 18th Wing also ensures the common interests of American allies and enhances the United States' global engagement capability

Major units: 18th Wing, 733rd Air Mobility Squadron, 353rd Special Operations Group

Type, number of aircraft: F-15 Eagles, C-130 Hercules, KC-135 Stratotanker, RC-135 Rivet Joint, E-3 Sentry, HH-60 Pave Hawks and a variety of TDY aircraft, including the F-22 Raptor

Personnel Assigned: Approximately 24,000 military, DoD civilians, contractors and family members as well as 3,300 Japanese employees

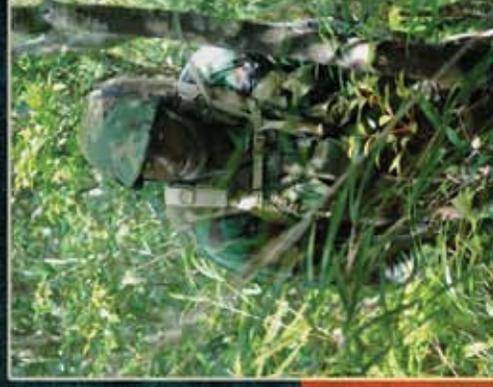
Nearest city & population: Kadena Town, population: 14,000; Okinawa City, population: 130,000 and Chatan Town, population: 25,000

Recreation: There are also plenty of cultural sites to visit throughout the island including historical castle ruins, World War II sites and the world's second largest aquarium. There's also plenty of water activities such as snorkeling and scuba diving

Factoid: During WWII, Okinawa was a strategic front-line defense for the Japanese forces. Almost 200,000 American and Japanese were lost during the battle. Okinawa was placed under U.S. military control until its reversion in May 1972.

What can a young officer get out of this assignment? Young officers can expect to gain an incredible amount of experience in international relations and Air Force operations through the base's high operations tempo. Kadena played a vital role in various humanitarian missions including Operation Unified Assistance after the tsunami.

Website: www.kadena.af.mil



Base of Preference

Ready and waiting

Senior Airman Chris Cabibi checks his gear before going on patrol March 2 at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. Airman Cabibi provides an armed response capability to limit, counteract, and neutralize hostile action directed against the installation. (Air Force/Senior Airman Bradley Lail)

