

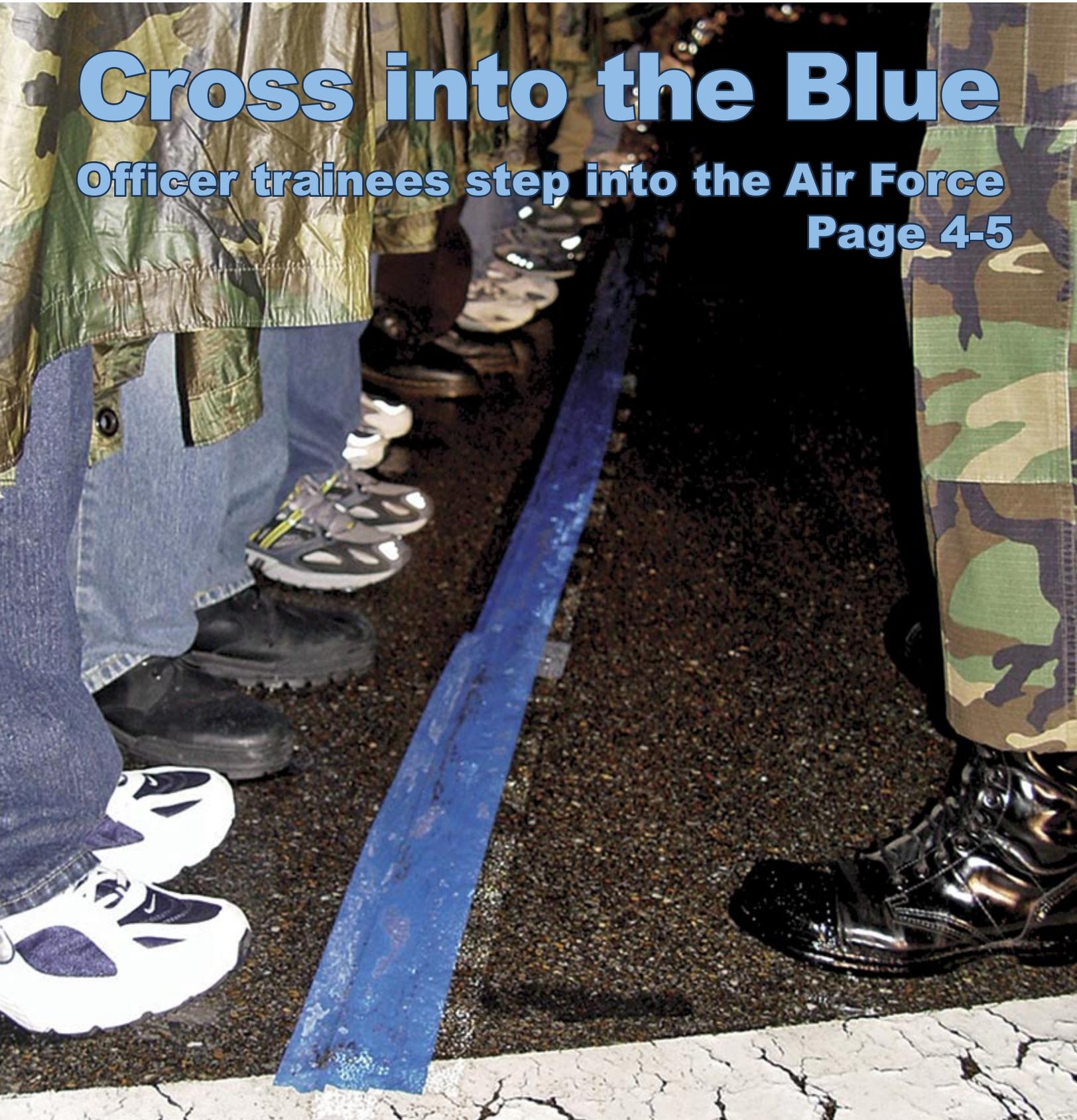
# Leader

February 2006

Magazine for Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools

## Cross into the Blue

Officer trainees step into the Air Force  
Page 4-5



A Det. 860 cadet practices his escape and evasion skills during a joint training operations in October with three Air Force ROTC detachments and one Army ROTC detachment.



# Leader

February 2006 ■ Vol. 28 Issue 1 ■ <http://www.afots.af.mil/HQAFOATS/PublicAffairs.asp>

## SIGHT PICTURE

1 Looking back, looking forward

## AIR FORCE NEWS

2 New mission statement includes two new concepts

## CURRICULUM

3 Leaders are teachers too

## OTS

4 Officer trainees make commitment to Air Force

## ROTC

6 Mud run tests cadets' physical, mental strength

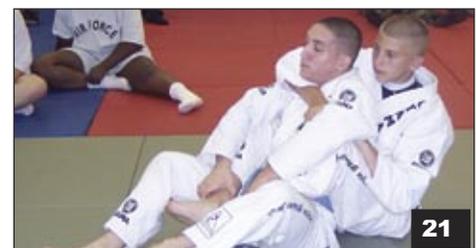
8 Cadets gain insight from active-duty officers

## JROTC

10 Cadets turns in \$3,000 cash

## FEATURES

12 Cadets learn how to evade and escape



*Cover: Officer Training School, Ala., trainees take their first step into the Air Force as they cross the "Blue-Line" in November.*

## Leader

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# Looking back, looking forward

## Gen. William R. Looney III

Air Education and Training Command commander

By any measure, 2005 was a memorable year ... a year marked by unprecedented disasters, excruciating sacrifices, and dramatic aspirations for peace, freedom and dignity.

The world mourned the passing of prominent figures such as Pope John Paul II, Rosa Parks and Simon Wiesenthal. Among the honored American dead in the Global War on Terrorism, we laid to rest one of our own, Airman First Class Elizabeth N. Jacobson.

Reminding us of the need to remain vigilant in the GWOT, in 2005, the forces of violent extremism struck again — in London and then in Jordan. In addition to this man-made scourge, we witnessed natural disasters that defied imagination, from the horrible destruction wrought by the Asian tsunami and South Asian earthquake to the painful images of our own people suffering in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

In the midst of these gut-wrenching tragedies, we were privileged as Airmen to join countless others in saving lives, providing comfort and offering hope. Other stories of heroism shone brightly throughout the turbulent year.

As a result of their Orange Revolution, the people of Ukraine won a victory for democratic principles and the rule of law. The crew of the Space Shuttle Discovery returned to space. And in just a single year, the people of Iraq elected a Transitional National Assembly, ratified a constitution and elected their first permanent government since the toppling of Saddam Hussein. Likewise, the people of Afghanistan inaugurated their first elected parliament in more than three decades.

Of course, we can't forget the brave American servicemen and women who made these monumental events possible.

As it was with the rest of the world,

2005 was a landmark year for the First Command. We faced a number of challenges and achieved tremendous success as we fulfilled our mission to develop America's Airmen today for tomorrow. Our recruiters nimbly shifted operations to help the Air Force meet our congressionally mandated end-strength, bringing on 20,000 new enlisted and officer personnel in the process.

In addition to graduating nearly 22,000 enlisted members, we initiated a profound shift in the way we conduct Basic Military Training. BMT resequenced its schedule to mirror the Air Expeditionary Force cycle and provide more readiness and combat skills training to our new enlisted Airmen.

Executing the Air Force's largest flying program, 19th Air Force organizations flew nearly 560,000 hours to graduate more than 20,000 aircrew members. We've nearly completed our seamless conversion to the T-6A and the T-38C, and the First Command made it possible for Air Combat Command to declare initial operational capability for the F-22A Raptor.

In the arena of initial and advanced skills training, 2nd Air Force and our technical training units graduated nearly 190,000 students.

Finally, Air University provided military, continuing and academic education to 179,000 graduates via residence and distance learning programs.

Bottom line, the First Command recruited, trained and educated 432,000 Airmen last year. Just for some perspective, think of everyone who attended this year's Rose Bowl — then



*Gen. William R. Looney III*

quadruple that number. That's how many Airmen we developed for our Air Force and the joint warfighter in 2005. We did it while deploying 3,822 AETC Airmen to fight the GWOT. We did it while responding to and recovering from the worst natural disaster in the history of our country.

Looking back, I'm amazed by what we've accomplished. Looking forward, I'm more optimistic than ever. The First Command has a strong strategy for the future. We're going to continue to develop America's Airmen by delivering a highly qualified, expeditionary focused force, by quickly responding to the needs of gaining commanders and by championing the Air Force story.

We'll concentrate our talent, energy and resources through programs and initiatives that deliver measurable payback in recruiting, training and educating our force. And we'll continue to strengthen our foundation — our people. By developing and supporting our people, we'll not only accomplish our mission, we'll make AETC the Air Force's "command of choice."

Thank you for your commitment and sacrifice as we continue to deliver unrivaled education and training to the greatest Air and Space Force the world has ever seen. And thank you for your integrity, service and excellence in defending the precious people and values of the United States of America. I can think of no greater calling ... no greater privilege ... no greater reward. This year is going to be great for AETC, the Air Force and the Nation. Marilyn and I hope 2006 is great for you and your family, too! ■

# New mission statement includes two new concepts

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle

Air Force Print News



Photo by Master Sgt. Ken Wright

*Airman Herbert Hall prepares to participate in a Basic Military Training graduation parade at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The parade of 15 squadrons marked the end of the six-week training period for about 750 of the Air Force's newest Airmen.*

The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever

we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

*The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests — to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.*

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the presi-

dent, the combatant commanders and our nation with an array of options — options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do." ■

# Leaders are teachers, too

By Lt. Col. Chuck Capps  
AFOATS Curriculum

**W**hether an Officer Training School wing commander, an ROTC flight commander, or a Junior ROTC drill team commander, these leaders must learn to become teachers, too.

When I was a young lieutenant, my supervisor would gently force the company grade officers and young civilians under his command to read books and articles about topics that related to our mission to train Air Force personnel faster and better. He also made us attend a monthly lunch time meeting he called “brown bags.” This lunch time get together encouraged conversation.

It didn't take long for his magic to work. Our boss, a master teacher, duped us into becoming excited about learning and empowered each of us. He knew more about the subjects we led discussions on, but, he didn't dominate our minds with his philosophies. Instead, he challenged us to use our knowledge to form our own opinions, become innovative and push the envelope to make it easier for Air Force people to learn how to repair weapon systems and fly satellites.

He made us practice what we learned in our “brown bags sessions.” As we worked individual tasks, he blended the readings, discussions, and opinions into our work. If we were off the mark, he forced a dialogue that caused us to think about our decisions and actions. He shared stories about what worked in the past and what didn't.

Often, he would gather junior members and discuss new tasks and initiatives handed to him by superiors. He asked if we thought a new issue could be resolved quickly or needed a long-term approach. He encouraged members to challenge the thought processes and to seek consolidation of good ideas. My boss provided regular feedback that was effective. He knew my strengths and weaknesses. He was the

model of the Air Force officer I wanted to become.

Almost 20 years have passed since I worked for him. Since that time, I have received only four meaningful feedback sessions. Regular feedback is important, no matter where you lie in the chain of command. Several supervisors have told me, if I didn't hear from them, “assume everything is OK.” I would hear nothing from them. These were good men. However, they didn't take time to grow those who would follow in their footsteps. Even today, I thoroughly enjoy the occasions when my colonels and generals take time to mentor.

The four meaningful feedback sessions came from a lieutenant general and a colonel, while serving as their executive officer. These leaders made me feel like my ideas were important. Despite differences in rank and responsibilities, they made time for me.

Through these officers, I learned how to think, how to give credit to others, take responsibility for failure, and how to treat people. I watched their actions, listened to their stories, and saw how well they communicated. Their ideas energized others. The general and colonel enjoyed seeing their people learn how to solve problems on their own. People come alive when they aren't bound by old ways of doing business and their ideas are potentially the next gem in achieving success.

When I measure my leadership against the standard set by the three bosses I've mentioned, I haven't followed their model. Instead, I've acted as if I were too busy to let my personnel into my neighborhood. I've missed opportunities to stimulate my subordinate's minds and engage their thoughts about better ways to do business.

I've worked suspenses and gave solutions rather than asking for answers. I was too busy to teach how to lead. I became the boss I didn't want to be. By solving the

problems for subordinates, I omitted opportunities for them to learn, succeed, fail and grow. It was easier to do things myself than to teach someone else. My greatest fear is my haste gave the impression I didn't trust my personnel to do their work.

Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force Chief of Staff, wrote, “We must preserve that which makes us the most feared Air Force in the world — our people. Our culture of excellence must continue to develop Airmen ... Airmen who are the most adaptable, most skilled, most professional, and most lethal the world has ever known.”

Those charged with leading others should pay attention to the charter General Moseley established. Teaching how to lead does not mean you must hand over the cookie jar. Nor does it mean every decision must be made by committee. There are times when you must be the boss.

However, with all the things we do every day, there are opportunities for us to develop and teach those who will come behind us. One day we will be replaced. If we don't teach others how to fill our shoes, they will use what they see and hear to form ideas and habits about leadership that may be fraught with errors.

We need to build learning laboratories in the work environment. We simulate war-time missions with exercises, competitions and inspections. As a leader you must use every opportunity to teach subordinates to think and to solve problems appropriately, encourage and reward innovation, find ways to implement processes and operating procedures that may not be your ideas. You will create minds that may develop a “best practice” in their work environments. Cultivate a leadership style that values learning.

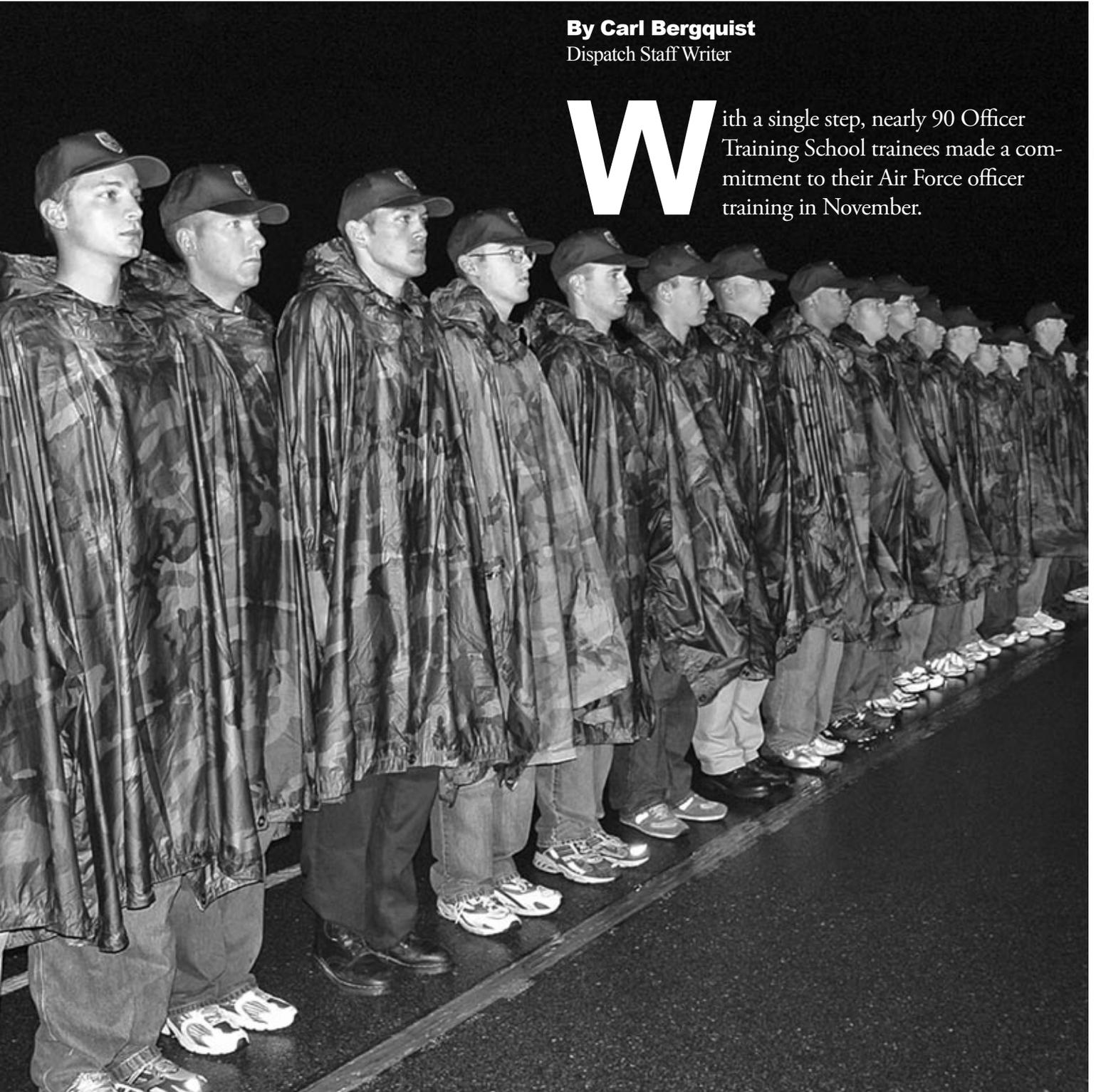
Airmen and Air Force civilians are intelligent, highly-skilled and diligent workers. As leaders, it's our job to prepare subordinates to replace us. ■

# No looking back

## Officer trainees make commitment to Air Force

**By Carl Bergquist**  
Dispatch Staff Writer

**W**ith a single step, nearly 90 Officer Training School trainees made a commitment to their Air Force officer training in November.



*Photo by Senior Airman Krista Coons*

Called the “Blue-Line” ceremony, cadets were awakened the morning of Nov. 16 before 5 a.m. and taken to the OTS parade field for the event. At the parade field, the cadets were asked to step over a blue line that was painted on the concrete if they wanted to continue their officer training.

“It was inspiring in that we were giving our allegiance to the Air Force,” said Officer Trainee Paula Charvat of the ceremony. “I enjoyed it because being an officer is something I have aspired to since my first enlistment.”

Officer Trainee Charvet, who was prior-enlisted for 10 years, said she was as prepared for the event as possible.

Having been an instructor, she was not completely surprised by the early morning knock on her door.

“At first I wondered what was happening but by the time we got to the parade field I had a pretty good idea of what was going on,” she said. “I was a little nervous about the ceremony, but I’m looking forward to the challenge that OTS will bring.”

Officer Trainee Kokoran Kenrick from Fayetteville, N.C., said his parents were both military so the event didn’t come as a complete surprise to him either. He had also seen a video that talked about the Blue-Line ceremony.

“The ceremony did provide a lot more pressure than watching the video and was a real wake-up call,” he said. “The main thing for me is being able to do what I have to do to become an officer under a constant barrage of pressure and do it with confidence.”

Capt. Ray Pritchett, 24th Training Squadron assistant director of opera-

**“I was a little nervous about the ceremony, but I’m looking forward to the challenge that OTS will bring.”**

— Officer Trainee Paula Charvat

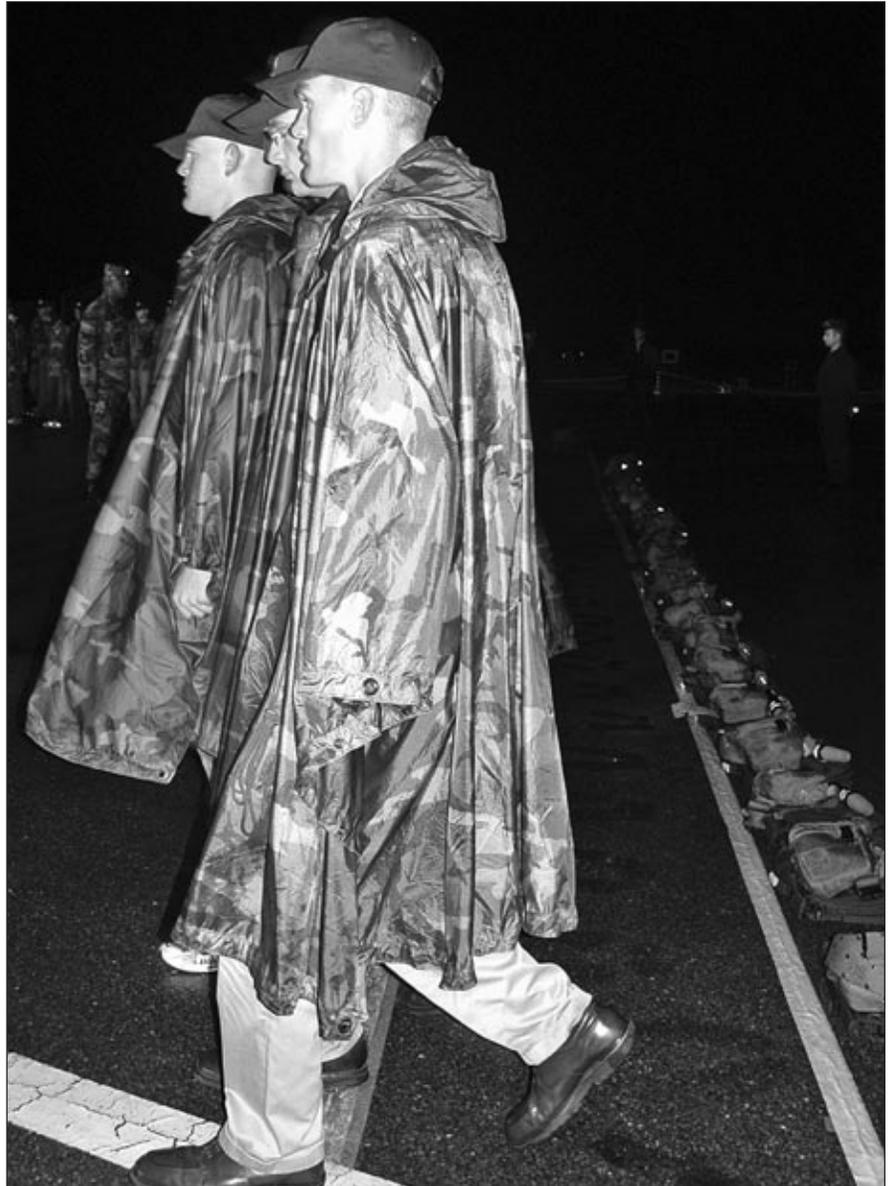


Photo by Senior Airman Krista Coons

*Officer trainees take their first step into the Air Force as they cross the “Blue-Line” in November.*

tions, said the ceremony is held to “indoctrinate” OTS cadets.

“It is a transition phase of going from the civilian world to the Air Force,” he said. “The ceremony, held at the beginning of OTS training, allows cadets to become a part of the Air Force family.”

Captain Pritchett said in rare cases people have refused to cross the blue-line and if the refusal is sincere, it results in a “self-elimination” from the OTS program for that person. He said, however, in the more than three years

he has been at OTS no one has refused to cross the line.

The captain said while the origin of the tradition is unclear, the present ceremony at OTS has changed over the last decade.

“Back in the 1990s, officer trainees were required to step over a blue-line as soon as they arrived at OTS and there were blue-lines at various places on the campus they had to step over whenever they encountered them,” he said. “Now, we do it once and as a class, usually within 48 hours of arrival.” ■

# Annual mud run tests cadets' physical, mental strength

**By Cadet Ryan Edenstrom**

Det. 875, Virginia Tech, Va.

**M**embers of the Air Force pride themselves on supporting local charities, but Det. 875 took the commitment to new heights when they participated in the 10th Annual Marine Corps Mud Run, Sept. 17.

The mud run is a five-kilometer charity race at the Blue Ridge Mountains of Roanoke, Va., hosted by the Marines of Bravo Company, 4th Combat Engineers. Since its inception in 1995, the Mud Run has grown steadily in size and recognition. In 2003, the race drew more than 2,100 runners. And even though the Bravo Company was deployed in Iraq this year, the Marines of Charlie Company in Lynchburg, Va., took over to maintain the tradition. This year's race drew more than 1,500 runners, including two

five-member teams from Det. 875 named Cadre Staff and Extended Cadets.

Although the event seems entertaining, deep down this is one filthy, dirty race. The event made participants race through a 100-meter section of the Roanoke River, two 15-meter wallows of shoe munching mud pits, a quarter-mile mountain climb, and several precisely placed obstacles.

The race concluded with a 50-meter low crawl through a pit of mud that left participants looking like a dipped caramel apple – though not quite as tasty.

To make sure participants got good and muddy, one stretch of the course included a series of ropes strung just above the mud. Marines were posted throughout the 50-meter pit to ensure everyone crawled

below the ropes, allowing all participants to fully experience, and perhaps even taste, a good old-fashioned slice of Virginia mud pie.

The Marines made it clear that “leave no one behind” was just as applicable on the mud field as the battlefield, and teams were disqualified unless they crossed the finish line together. Finishing hand-in-hand proved difficult for many as mud dripped and dribbled over runners' faces. Not to be discouraged, most teams overcame their collective vision problems by linking arms together for a final “blind” push the last few meters.

After completing the race, participants made their way back to the Roanoke River for some initial de-mudding. While most simply plunged into the river for a quick swim, the Extended Cadets planned



*Courtesy Photo*

*Det. 875's Cadre Staff team low crawls through a mud pit with simulated plastic barb wires at the 10th Annual Marine Corps Mud run in September.*

ahead and brought shampoo and soap to help rinse off.

Both of Det. 875's teams persevered through the punishing race to post strong finishes. The Extended Cadets placed eighth and the Cadre Staff was 12th overall. And while the cadets took home bragging rights, the cadre took home a first place medal in the co-ed 18-and-older division.

"Winning the co-ed division is literally bitter sweet. Our true goal was to crush team Extended Cadets, but the steep hill, mud-filled obstacles, and inherent age difference appears to have gotten the better of us," said Col. Daniel Lentz, Det. 875 commander, as he wiped the mud off his face.

And while the Extended Cadets won the day, their victory wasn't without pressure. For much of the race team Extended Cadets found themselves being chased by the cadre; however, as one cadet noted, it was the hill that secured the cadets' victory.

"Reaching the top of the mountain was a relief in and of itself, but when I looked back and saw two cadre members continuing to make their way up, I knew it was all down hill from there, both literally and figuratively," said an Extended Cadet team member.

Both Det. 875 teams attribute their great finishes to the physical fitness program implemented by the detachment. In keeping with the "Fit to Fight" program, both cadre and cadets met twice weekly for mandatory physical fitness training including extensive long runs and sprints. Cadre and cadets vowed to return to the Mud Run next year, saying once you've tasted the mud you just can't stop.

In the end, cadets and cadre got dirty for a great cause. Both teams exemplified the Air Force warrior spirit and put Service Before Self in a marvelously muddy way. ■

# Caution: muddy trails ahead

Det. 040, California State University, Fresno, Calif.

Thousands of military and civilians participate in the Camp Pendleton Mud Run every year, and California State University, Fresno, Det. 040 joined the tradition.

In October, 28 cadets and two cadre members made the trip from Los Angeles to San Diego to participate in the six-mile annual event.

The detachment fielded six teams comprised of five runners, representing each of their flights.

The mud that makes the run so infamous is pits of silted water that participants are forced to run through. However, the majority of the run is across hard compacted dirt.

The race started on a twisting, flat stretch of land. A fire truck placed in the path of the road sprayed runners and ensured being dry was not an option. Shortly thereafter, runners were introduced to the first "mud" of the run.

After crossing a shallow stream, runners set off on a long slow rise up into the hills of Camp Pendleton. After several miles of hill running, the trail descended into a river bed where the mud pits returned. Huge mud pits, separated by wooden walls, forced runners to climb over, and then fall into more mud.

In the final mile of the course, runners were faced a steep muddy hill, and a swim through the infamous Camp Pendleton mud. The final hill is wet and slick with mud, created by firefighters hosing runners attempting to conquer it. Most runners were forced to walk up the hill or fall.

The last mud pit required runners



*Courtesy photo*

*Det. 040 cadets slowly make their way up a muddy hill at Camp Pendleton's, Calif., annual mud run in October.*

to low-crawl under simulated rows of barbed wire. No one could escape getting absolutely, disgustingly muddy by the end of the race.

This 10-kilometer race was not a 26.2 mile marathon. However, runners spend most of the race wet. Their feet got soaked and blisters became a problem for some athletes.

Getting dirty, sloshing through muddy water, and swimming neck deep in it brings participants back, year after year.

The race was a test of teamwork and leadership for the cadets. For many of the cadets, this was the longest run they had ever faced. Leaders emerged out of the Fresno state teams. They used encouragement to push other cadets through the obstacles and finished faster than anticipated.

Det. 040 faced challenges together and learned a little more about themselves and their teammates. ■

# Cadets gain insight from active-duty officers

By Maria Prato-Gaines

Oklahoma University's Air Force ROTC Career Day in November brought a bigger crowd to Oklahoma Memorial Union than anyone could remember in recent years.

A slight change in the program brought seven junior ROTC high school programs from throughout the state to an event that is normally exclusive to the college-age cadets.

The career day gave ROTC members the opportunity to peek into a unique fraternity of military professionals.

All four meeting rooms of the union were full of Air Force officers and ROTC cadets hoping to learn about how the military operates.

More than two dozen officers from Tinker Air Force Base made the trip to Norman to enlighten cadets about what role they played in their specific jobs. Career fields included Judge Advocate General, intelligence officers, pilots, navigators, engineers



Photo by Lloyd Cheam

*Danielle Deupree, business administration senior, and Capt. Mark Williams, E-3 AWACS Pilot, listen to Brian Lewis, aerospace engineering senior, during Air Force ROTC Career Day in November.*

requirements and more.

The officers at the career day had occupied or dealt with nearly every career field, making their combined knowledge a tool cadets can now put toward their futures.

A career day changed the course of at least one person's life, if not many, in just a few hours.

Cadet Javier Cuevaz, Muskogee High School sophomore and Junior ROTC member, entered the union interested in the medical field.

Following the officers' accounts of their jobs, Cadet Cuevaz said that he plans to pursue meteorology instead because it suits him better.

"This year we actually combined junior ROTC and Career Day into one and as a result we were able to include people from all over Oklahoma," said Catherine Nelson, the event's organizer, ROTC's retention squadron commander and meteorology senior. ■

*Article and photo courtesy of The Oklahoma Daily.*

**"(Career day is) nice because it gives them face value. It's something they could never see in a brochure or read in a book."**

**— Capt. Taylor Yan**  
An E-3 pilot

and many others.

Cadets asked a number of questions about officers' assignments, their experiences in war, the details of their training, physical regiment

"It's nice because it gives them face value," said an E-3 pilot Capt. Taylor Yang. "It's something they could never see in a brochure or read in a book."

# Military volunteers spruce up school

## Senior non-commissioned officers revamp old classroom

By Alvin Benn

**W**hen students in Diane Briggs' math class walked into her room Oct. 24 at Robert E. Lee High School, Ala., their day was brightened because of cheerful daisy yellow walls.

They didn't see the painters at work, but they can thank a group of Air Force volunteers for giving up their Saturday morning to cover teal paint that had seen better days.

Similar projects were under way in other classrooms as master sergeants who are preparing to return to their permanent bases decided to give back to a community that had been their hosts for the past few weeks.

"We all wanted to be involved in a special project during our stay here and are happy to be doing this," said Master Sgt. John McEnaney, who was born in the Bronx and raised in Ireland.

Sponsored by the Air Force Junior ROTC and students at the Senior NCO Academy at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Ala., the four-hour clean-up project was supervised by retired Maj. Barbara Marshall-Coleman.

"We started this project this school year," said Major Marshall-Coleman. "We hope to continue this in the coming years. The students at the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy were happy to volunteer and we can't thank them enough."

Major Marshall-Coleman took a look at the scarred doorway leading into Bea Turner's English class and knew it soon would be covered with a fresh coat of paint by the Air Force

personnel inside the room.

"When (Turner) comes back, it's going to be very, very nice," she said. "They are going to be doing other work too, including painting stripes down the hallways."

The retired major said she got the idea to spruce up some of the classrooms after learning that Montgomery County superintendent of education Carlinda Purcell had been taking a look at schools that needed appearance improvements.

She said teachers were told when the volunteers would arrive and asked them for suggestions on what needed to be done. Ms. Briggs said she asked her students about what color they'd like the walls of her classroom.

Ms. Briggs spent her Saturday morning watching the volunteers cover the walls of her room with paint and other supplies she paid for out of her own pocket.

"It cost \$138.48," she said. "They are using two coats of primer and two coats of regular paint. We're going to decorate the walls with sunflowers."

Ms. Briggs' students also prepared their classroom for the Air Force volunteers by moving desks and chairs out of the way so it would be easier to paint the walls.

"White is hard to keep clean," she said. "The custodians in this building are incredible. They do an awesome job, but it is an old building and you do get some wear and tear."

Ms. Briggs said she originally planned to have her husband, Lt. Col. Donald "Buzz" Briggs, paint her room during the Christmas



Courtesy photo

*A Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy student paints a Robert Lee High School classroom wall during a beautification project in October.*

break "and he is thrilled to have these men here because he doesn't like painting anymore than anybody does."

She praised the volunteers for spending Saturday morning at her school when they could be preparing for their final week at their own school.

"I don't see how they have time for this because I know how hard they work at their school," she said. "They are just great to do this."

She said she and her students did some color research and settled on bright yellow for the walls of her classroom "because it's energizing enough to keep them awake and also calming at the same time." ■

*Article courtesy of the Montgomery Advertiser.*

# Honesty is his policy

North Meck freshman finds \$3,000 in cash and turns it in

By Tucker Mitchell

The Herald

North Mecklenburg High, N.C., freshman Cadet John Smith wasn't born in the United States, but he's already picked up some good old-fashioned American values.

While working at a Junior ROTC fundraiser in November at the Renaissance Festival in North Carolina, he noticed a small gray bag on the floor of the concession stand where he and a friend were helping to clean up. Cadet Smith picked it up, opened it and discovered it contained "this huge wad of cash." What happened next was the talk of the school.

He turned the money in. "For a second, I thought about keeping it," Cadet Smith said, "but then something jumped into my brain and said, 'no.' The money would be nice now but the pride, that will last forever. And I can already see it's true. I just feel so good about this and everybody here at the school, they feel good about it, too."

Cadet Smith was honored by Renaissance Festival officials and visiting dignitaries from the area Air Force Junior ROTC office. He is also recognized as North Meck's Cadet of the Month of November.

"He's very deserving," says retired Col. Richard Wolf, senior aerospace science instructor. "I'm not sure I can say that every one of our guys who was out there last weekend (about 30 cadets in all) would have done the same thing."

Smith returned to the festival on Sunday and learned that the bag he discovered contained almost \$3,000 and that it was money from the cash



*Courtesy photo*

*Cadet John Smith receives his cadet of the month plaque from Joey Burch, North Meck High School principal, in November.*

box at the concession stand. A concession stand employee apparently dropped the bag while moving several items to another location.

The cash in the bag included, among other things, the unit's cut for its concession stand work. Cadet Smith says his good deed has earned him a dual reputation around school. Teachers, administrators and some of his friends laud him for his honesty. Some other students think he's an idiot.

"I've heard 'dumb' and 'stupid' and stuff like that," said Cadet Smith. "That's okay. I know honesty is a good thing."

But couldn't he have found some-

thing to do with \$3,000? He smiled. Of course he could. "But first I would have had to explain where I got it to my mother, so I don't think I could have done very much. "That's the way they are, and that's the way I was raised," Smith says. "It all makes me feel so proud."

Cadet Smith lives in Cornelius and is the son of Betty and Stewart Smith. He was born in Mexico City, but his family moved to the United States before he started school. His father was born in Mexico City, too, but is an American citizen by virtue of the fact that his father — John's grandfather — was born in New York. The family has lived in Cornelius since 2001. ■

# Retreat emphasizes team building

By **Cadet Docleia Johnson**

Det. 607, Fayetteville State University, N.C.



*Det. 607 cadets participate in a group leadership problem with Camp Don Lee instructors in September.*

Sixteen ROTC cadets traveled to the Camp Don Lee in Arapahoe, N.C., for a two-day retreat focusing on team building and problem solving in September. The group worked together completing various team-building activities.

Camp activities ranged from canoeing in the Trent River to a trust fall where cadets had to fall backwards from a six-foot platform and rely solely on their fellow cadets to catch them.

"Camp Don Lee was a good team building experience. I think it was especially good for me because I do not get to see the other Professional Officer Course cadets often because of going to Pembroke. Even though it was only 24 hours, I feel I got to know the cadets I rarely see

a lot better," said Cadet Jon Slottje, cross-town agreement cadet at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

"I had a good time at Camp Don Lee. It's amazing how the simplest activities can be very insightful towards an individual's personality. I hope this trip is offered for the upcoming Professional Officer Course cadets next year," said Cadet Vannesa Jessie.

"The team building experiences the cadets learned at Camp Don Lee are the same basic team building techniques they will use in the operational Air Force. It's teamwork that gets the mission done," said Master Sgt. Terry Fraser, the enlisted instructor of Aerospace Studies and organizer for the off-site event. ■

# Football game honors veterans

Det 290, University of Kentucky, Ky.

The Det. 290 cadet corps participated in the pre-game ceremonies in honor of veterans at a home football game in September. As part of the pre-game festivities, Air Force ROTC cadets, with the help of Army soldiers from Fort Knox, Ky., unfurled a football field-sized flag.

After the festivities the cadet corps and cadre joined more than 59,000 fans in watching the Wildcats defeat Idaho State Bengals 41-29.

On the morning of the game, the detachment hosted more than 50 people at a Det. 290 alumni brunch. Guests watched the induction of retired Maj. Gen. Carl D. Black into the detachment wall of fame as well as the dedication of one of the detachment classrooms in honor of fallen alumni, 1st Lt. Blake Satterly, who died in the service of his country when his aircraft crashed near Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. ■

# OTS receives SWAT award

The Elmore County Sheriff's office honored officer trainees of class 05-08 for their support of the largest antiterrorism drill in the nation at the Officer Training School, Ala. More than 130 officer trainees and 27 agencies were involved in the hostage rescue exercise on Sept. 22.

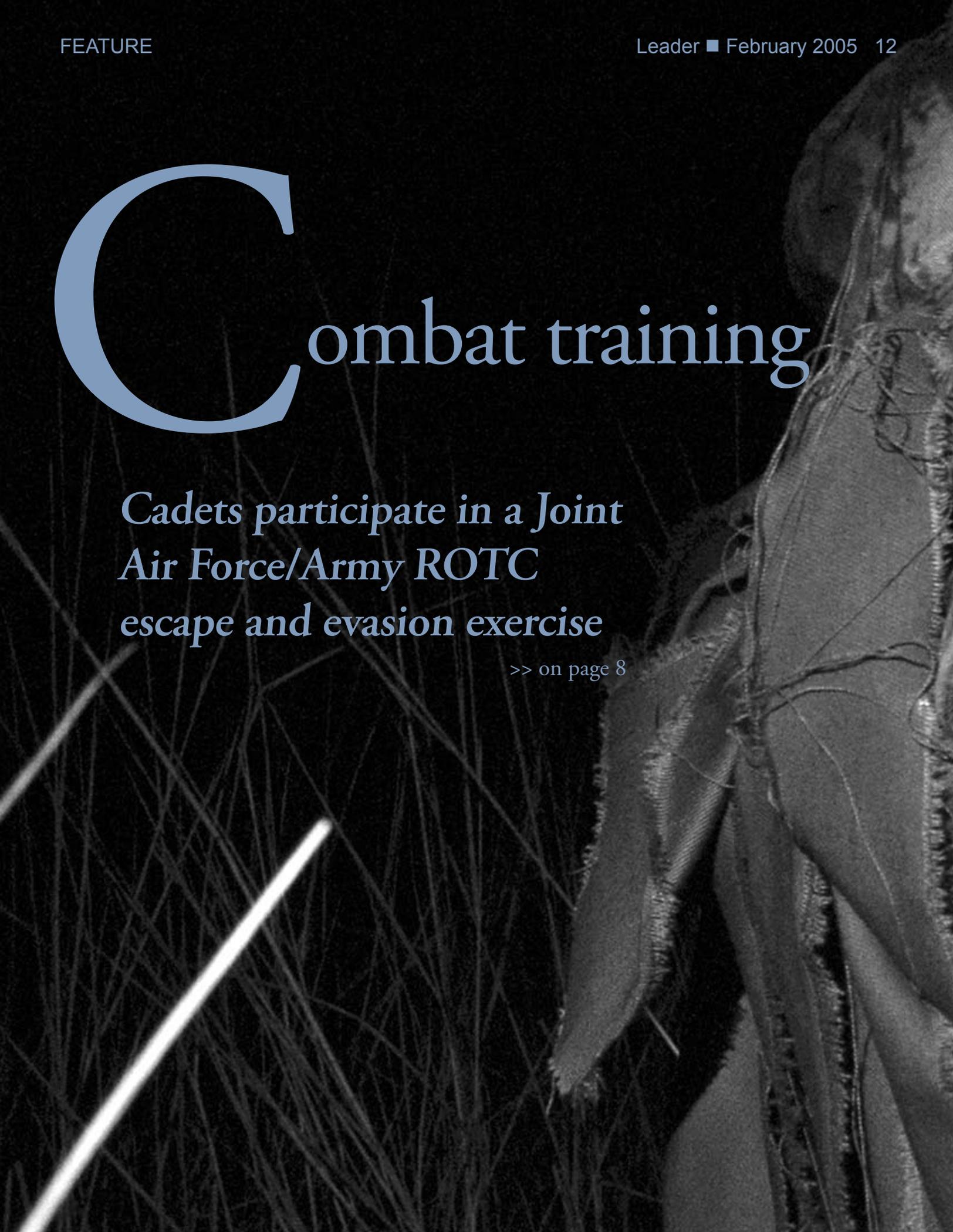
"We couldn't have created a realistic hostage situation if the

officer trainees weren't present. They were a key element of the exercise," said Sergeant Chris Zeigler, a member of the Elmore County Sheriff's department in Alabama. Second Lt. Christopher James accepted the award from Sergeant Zeigler on behalf of class 05-08. Lieutenant James was the officer trainee wing commander during the exercise time period. ■

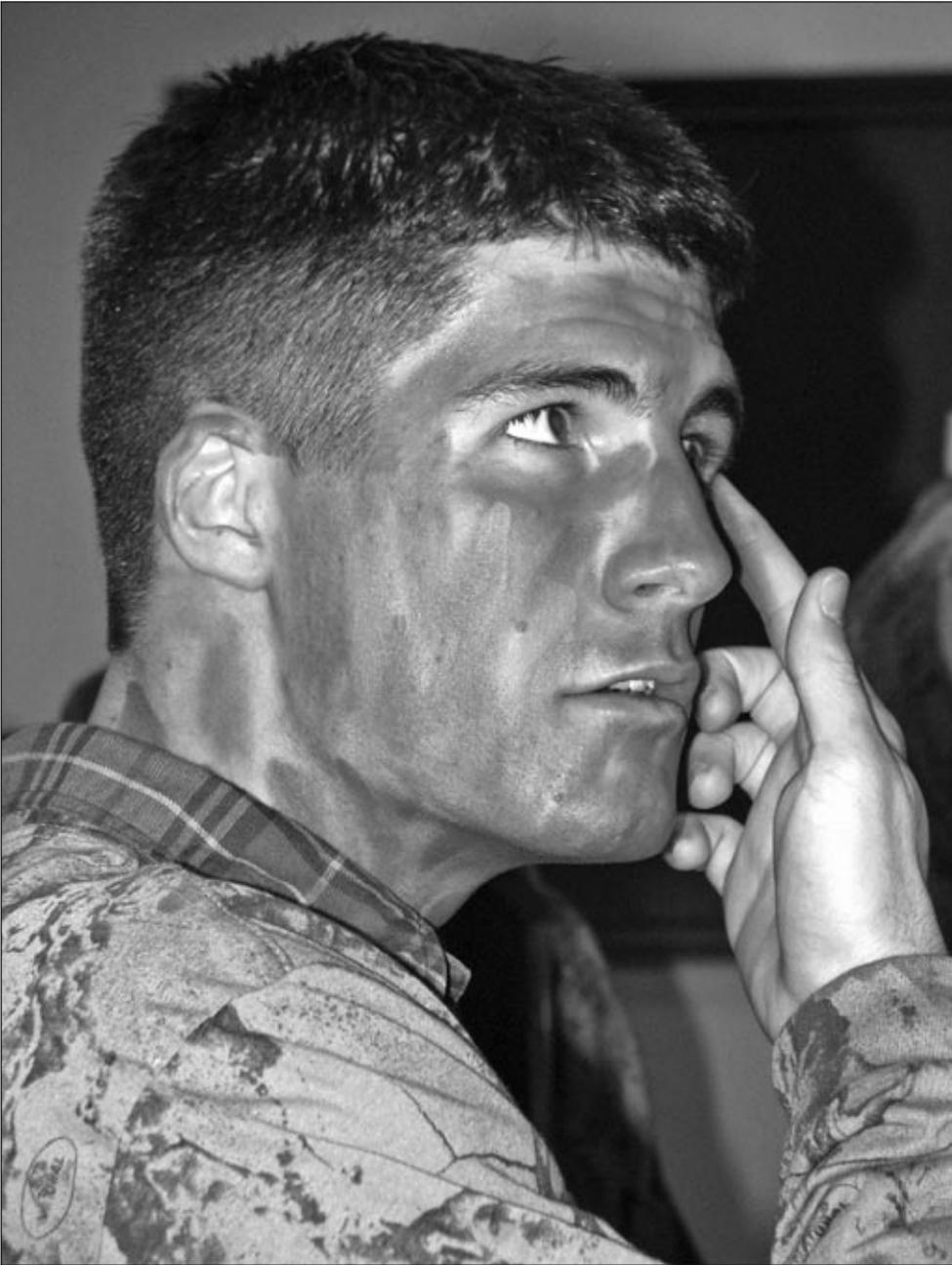
# Combat training

*Cadets participate in a Joint  
Air Force/Army ROTC  
escape and evasion exercise*

>> on page 8







*Photos by Cadet John Heaton*

*A Det. 860 cadet camouflages his face in preparation for an escape and evasion training exercise in October.*

#### Det. 860, Utah State University, Utah

**M**ore than 75 cadets from three Air Force detachments and one Army ROTC detachment in Utah participated in one of the largest joint training operations of the year.

On the night of Oct. 28, cadets from Utah State University, Brigham Young University and University of Utah joined active-duty and reserve

Air Force personnel from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, in an escape and evasion training mission. Cadets participated in four hours of pre-exercise training covering a host of topics from evasion techniques to self-aid and buddy care. Participants were given an evasion scenario which required them to gather information and perform reconnaissance on an

alleged terrorist training camp while simultaneously evading enemy forces throughout the night.

Each evading cadet was given instruction on navigation, evasion and first-aid. The briefings were given by former Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape instructor Capt. Pete Hudlow, who is currently stationed at Hill Air Force Base. Emergency procedures as well as self-aid and buddy care procedures were outlined by Master Sgt. Eric Hattabaugh, also from Hill Air Force Base, to ensure the safety of all cadets. A crash course in point-to-point navigation gave cadets the ability to navigate the training field. Finally, cadets were taught some of the intricacies of escape and evasion. This included such guidance as correct camouflage patterns and assessing one's surroundings before choosing a course of action.

"The closer I get to my commissioning date and entering today's expeditionary Air Force environment, the more I appreciate acquiring real-world skills such as self-aid and buddy care. Training like this gives cadets a new perspective when they realize they may one day need these skills to save a life or evade would-be captors," said Cadet Tim Dennis.

Cadets were transported to a training location in Logan Canyon, Utah. Evasion teams of three were assembled with one cadet from each detachment. Teams were then taken to a preliminary checkpoint where they began their exercise in escape and evasion at 10:30 p.m. They were required to navigate between four checkpoints over a challenging mountainous three-mile course.

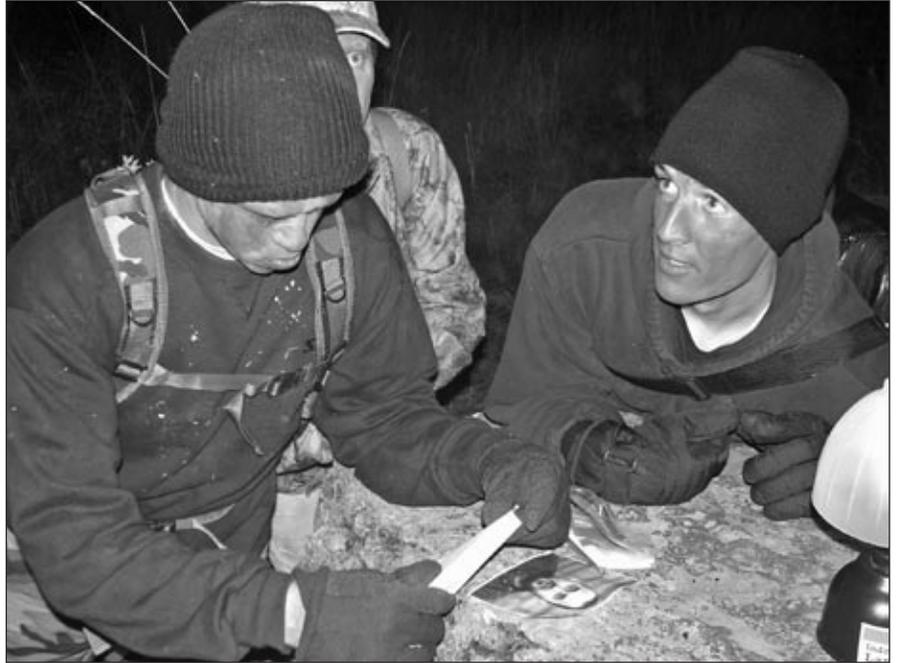
"During our pre-event training session, the thought of evading for a few miles sounded fairly simple. However, during the evasion exercise, darkness, cold, damp, and lots of low crawling, made slow going for our team," said Cadet James Robertson.

As photographer and an exercise evaluator for the event, Cadet John

Heaton's duties enabled him to witness progress for a number of teams.

"It became clear very quickly that teams would enter the exercise with one philosophy for accomplishing their objectives, but would then need to modify their plan to account for environmental factors, changes in captor patrol procedures, and other unforeseen factors. It is fascinating to watch leadership decision making on the fly," said Cadet Heaton.

Running an exercise of this scope safely and professionally was a team effort. The event was organized by cadets from Utah State University, and training was provided by Air Force personnel from Hill Air Force Base's survival, evasion, resistance and escape, medical, and Life Support organizations. Two-man pursuit teams were made up of cadets from ROTC Det. 860 and the Jim Bridger Detachment of the Army's ROTC. Their job as 'aggressors' was to seek out and locate the evading cadets. Aggressors were given strict guidelines on procedures for safely making contact with the evaders in the training environment. Aggressor, exercise evaluator, and former Air Force enlisted security forces member Cadet Dustin Hall has participated in many similar field



*Cadets review material to help them navigate between four checkpoints over a 3-mile course.*

**"Training like this gives cadets a new perspective when they realize they may one day need these skills to save a life or evade would-be captors."**

**— Cadet Tim Dennis**

**Det. 860, Utah State University, Utah**

events, but this was the first time he took on a role as an exercise trainer.

"As an aggressor and exercise evaluator, I needed to pursue my mission to capture cadets as an aggressor, all while keeping the cadets' safety and well-being in the forefront of my

mind. I learned the value of taking care of your troops in a training environment," said Cadet Hall.

In order to ensure accountability and maximize training value, each team of aggressors wrote down information regarding the reasons evaders were captured. When captured, the evaders were told what they were doing incorrectly, given aid if needed, and sent on to continue their mission. After spending nearly seven hours in the cold darkness of Logan Canyon, the night evaders were able to warm themselves by a fire as they waited for other teams to finish the course.

The final portion of the event was a much appreciated breakfast served in a nearby restaurant lodge. Cadet Justin Gibbons, the meal coordinator, learned the importance of logistics in mission accomplishment. He and the cadet spouses club made preparations for the morning meal.

"When you know up to 75 cadets

are coming to breakfast and that they've been evading out in the cold all night, you realize the value of meeting mission requirements to a T ... the food had to be ready on time," said Cadet Gibbons.

Cadets were able to share stories about the previous night's activities and compare notes on their detachment's programs. Much laughter was had by both aggressors and evaders as they recalled the evening's encounters. Cadets went back to Utah State for a few hours of rest before returning home.

The event was an opportunity for both Air Force and Army cadets to experience a joint operation mission. The cadets received real-world training from Air Force personnel, witnessed the challenges of organizing and executing a large-scale project and emerged with a better perspective of what it takes to evade and lead a team in an harsh and unknown environment.

For some, the exercise may have been the only chance they will have to participate in such an event before joining the ranks of the active duty military. ■

# ROTC intramural football team wins championship

**By Cadet Lauren McQuone**

Det. 035, California State University, Fresno, Calif.

The Fall 2005 semester marked not only the beginning of classes, but also the beginning of the intramural football season at California State University, Fresno. This year, both Det. 035's teams made it to the semi-finals, but only the undefeated Team Air Force advanced to the finals in October.

The teams matched each other point for point up until the second half when the opposing team, Free Agents, scored to extend the lead 18-13. However, the Free Agents failed to score the extra point, which

proved to be critical in the closing minutes.

On the following drive, Team Air Force's quarterback, Cadet Aaron Briesmaster, ran in the ball with 51 seconds remaining on the clock to put his team up 19-18. The opposing team made one last attempt to score, but Team Air Force's defense prevailed and solidified their victory.

More than 60 cadets, who were still in uniform from a leadership lab, came out to cheer on the team. As soon as the final score was called out the cadets spilled out onto the field

to congratulate their winning team.

"We were in the championship game last year, and we lost. I know that feeling and I didn't want to feel that again. We'll be back again next year and hopefully we can pick up where we left off," said Cadet Briesmaster.

Members of CSU-Fresno's Intramural Football Champions are Cadets Bryan Adams, Paul Arner, Jacob Botello, Aaron Briesmaster, Shawn Chamberlin, Todd Early, Timothy Hickman, Jack Johnston and Ryan Strength. ■



*Cadet Aaron Briesmaster led Team Air Force to a 19-18 victory over the Free Agents with two touchdowns. (Photo by Joseph Vasquez)*

# Cadets dive into water survival training

**By Cadet Mark A. Graff**

Det. 205, Southern Illinois University, Ill.

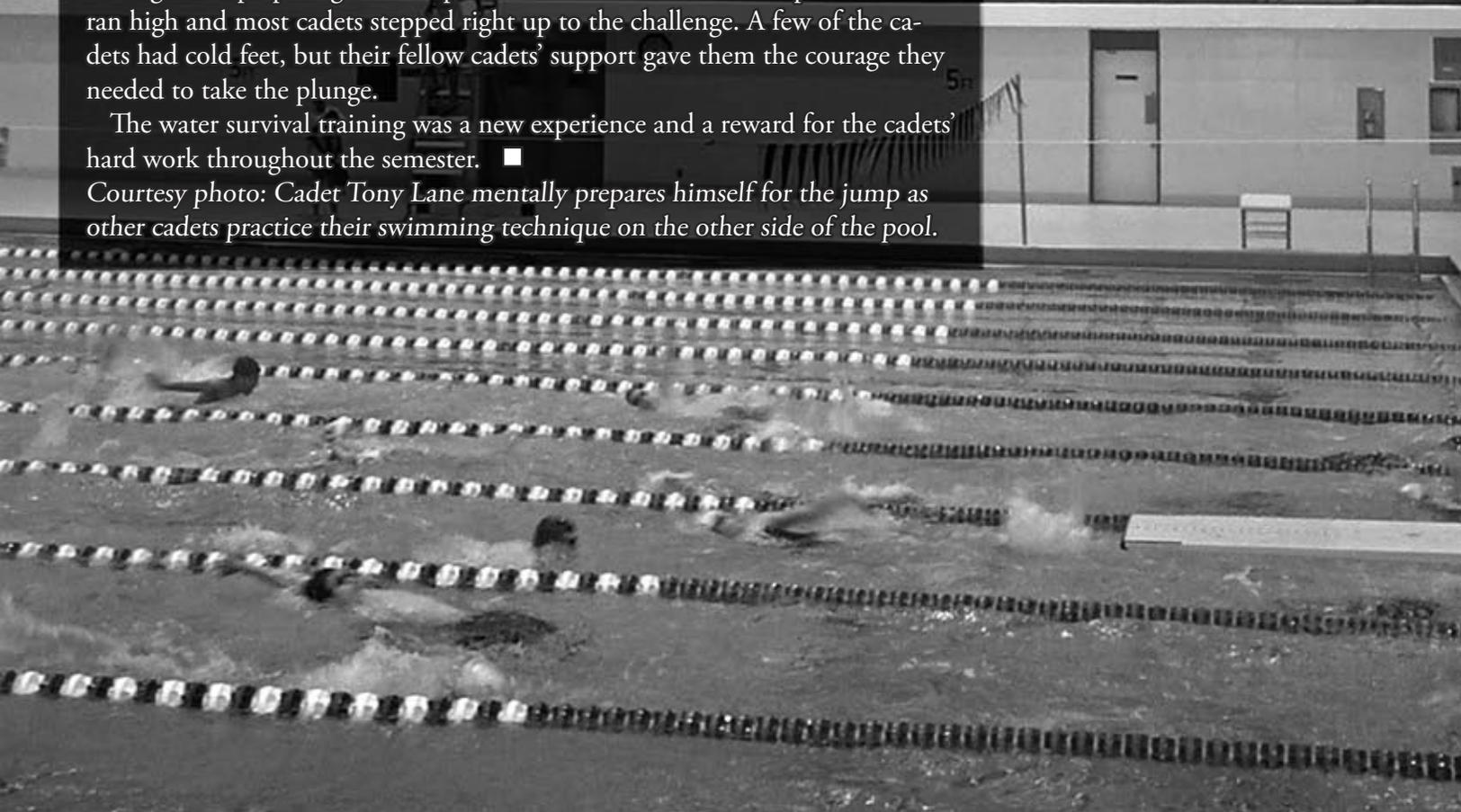
The cadets at Southern Illinois University made waves at their first leadership lab in December. Their mission was to learn water survival skills and build confidence in themselves and each other.

Cadets reported to the university's pool in battle dress uniforms ready to begin the water survival training. After stretching out, the cadets formed four groups that would rotate stations every 30 minutes. The first station showed cadets how to tread water for a lengthy period of time and to make personal flotation devices out of their BDU pants. At the second station, cadets became familiar with three different types of swimming strokes — the breaststroke, the backstroke and freestyle swimming. At the next stop, cadets learned how to adapt to pressure changes at certain depths underwater. After getting used to greater pressure underwater, cadets dove 16-feet underwater to retrieve a 10-pound diving brick. The last station was the diving platform.

Cadets gradually worked up courage in themselves as they dropped into the water from three different heights. The one-meter diving board came first followed by the three-meter diving board, which made the jump a bit more interesting. After accomplishing the first two jumps, cadets found themselves on the high dive preparing to attempt a five-meter free fall into the pool. Nerves ran high and most cadets stepped right up to the challenge. A few of the cadets had cold feet, but their fellow cadets' support gave them the courage they needed to take the plunge.

The water survival training was a new experience and a reward for the cadets' hard work throughout the semester. ■

*Courtesy photo: Cadet Tony Lane mentally prepares himself for the jump as other cadets practice their swimming technique on the other side of the pool.*



# Derry's 'Raiders'

## A cadet mentors at-risk youths

**By Cadet. Cassandra Diaz**  
Det. 160, University of Georgia



*Photo courtesy of Southern Roots Photography*

*Cadet Benjamin Derry holds a football as he watches his team, the Clarke Youth Association Raiders, play from the sidelines.*

**F**or the past five months, Cadet Benjamin Derry, University of Georgia Det. 160, has been putting in long hours between work and a full academic schedule. However, the junior finds time to help at-risk youths in the local community.

The Nashville, Tenn., native was attracted to the Clarke Youth Association Raiders football team because he felt he could make a difference in the lives of the 9-10 year-old under-privileged boys.

"I have always wanted to coach a

youth football team," said Cadet Derry. "Many of the kids live in difficult situations, so I wanted to use football as a positive force in their lives."

Cadet Derry set high standards for his team. Not only did they have a rigorous practice twice a week, but the CYA Raiders had to complete their homework before practice, and turn in copies of their report cards to ensure they were performing well in school. Cadet Derry said this was one of the most rewarding things he has ever done.

The CYA Raiders finished the

season undefeated, but more importantly, they passed all their classes.

"To see the look of satisfaction in their eyes when they won made all of the hard work we put in worth it, he said. "It gave me the opportunity to show these kids the importance of both discipline and integrity values that we hold in high regard in the Air Force."

Cadet Derry wants to continue his coaching career with the Raiders next season, but in the mean time he is finding other ways to help the community. ■

# A dignified farewell

## Cadets honor the American flag with ceremony

**By Cadet Nathan Williams**

Det. 670, Oklahoma State University, Okla.

“The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.” - Section 8 (k), Chapter 1 of Title 4, United States Code.

Every year, Det. 670 at Oklahoma State University receives a number American flags from around the community that have become torn, tattered, discolored or otherwise unserviceable. Each fall semester as part of their leadership lab, they perform a flag retirement ceremony, and in a ceremonious fashion, retire the flags by burning.

It is not uncommon for the detachment to receive anywhere from two to more than 10 flags each year. In 2004, a dozen flags were retired in a single ceremony. This year, Det.

670 retired two flags in September at the host university in Stillwater and two more during the cross-town leadership lab in Tulsa.

The ceremony provides the cadets with a sense of patriotism.

“I thought it was a great way to show respect to our nation – especially for the freshman cadets to see what we’re all about and what we stand for,” said Cadet Amanda Meyer.

“Participating in a flag retirement ceremony is an amazing experience,” said Cadet Billy McGee, a member of this year’s detail. “While the flag is being retired, you can’t help but think of everything that it stands for and the brave lives that have been lost to preserve that meaning.”

This solemn event is conducted

with a reading of the history of our nation’s colors, followed by the procession of folded flags to the location where they will be laid to rest forever.

They are then presented one last time, and then slowly lowered into the crackling and awaiting reach of the flames. The flag receives its final salute from the assembled corps of cadets before the ceremony is completed.

“I felt a sense of pride during the flag retirement ceremony. The symbol of our nation was being honored and respected by a new generation of patriots that have taken it upon themselves to defend the Constitution of the United States, the very ideal that our flag represents,” said Cadet Tyler Oldham. ■



Photo by Cadet Kevin Delker

*Cadet Billy McGee embraces the American flag during a flag retirement ceremony in September.*

# Junior ROTC changes lives

By Robin DeMark

4th Fighter Wing Public Affairs, N.C.

About three times each week, high school students tour Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., to hear the roar of the F-15E Strike Eagle and see the jet displayed in a hangar.

An instructor from the Rocky Mount High School Junior ROTC program changed one student's life dramatically.

"Before Junior ROTC, classmates and teachers labeled me a fighter, and my friends were from the 'wrong crowd'," said Cadet Tatanga Greene. "I stayed on probation and didn't respect teachers, parents or myself."

Air Force Junior ROTC is a four-year voluntary program that teaches students about aerospace science, military life and self-discipline. Students learn how to respect themselves, deal with stress and work through difficult situations.

"My instructor, Chief (Stanley) Morgan, became my second dad; I could talk to him about anything," Cadet Greene said. "He helped me get my grades up by allowing me to work at my own pace. Now, I pass all of my classes instead of struggling to pass one."

Students must maintain their grades to be eligible to stay in the program. Each year, they are given more responsibility to include being



Courtesy photo

*Junior ROTC cadets perform their routine in a drill competition during a national drill competition held in Alabama each year.*

flight and squadron commanders and running the corps.

"As a commander, everyone notices the difference in me, and I'm complimented a lot," said Cadet Greene. "I've matured and found myself. I will graduate on time, go to college and do everything I want to. I'm a happy person now."

Throughout the curriculum, good grades are rewarded by tours at military bases and field trips in and out of state. Students with high grades and outstanding performance in Junior ROTC take flights on military air-

craft to observe air refueling.

"We're looking for average to top performers," said Chief Master Sgt. Stanley Morgan, NC-933 aerospace science instructor. "Our main objective is to teach students how to become better citizens and contribute to society in a positive manner. There is misconception among counselors and educators that the program is a disciplinary unit for the schools."

The program teaches youth how to transition from their teens to adulthood by informing students how to make the right life choices whether they join a military service or not.

"Graduates tell us that employers like to hire them because they completed Junior ROTC," Chief Morgan said. "Businesses know these students are going to give them a good day's work, for a good day's pay. When you see these students in uniform, you're seeing my Air Force." ■

"(My instructor) helped me get my grades up by allowing me to work at my own pace. Now, I pass all of my classes instead of struggling to pass one."

— Cadet Tatanga Greene

NC-932 cadet

# Don't mess with cadets

## JROTC cadets learn hand-to-hand combat techniques

VA-20013, King William High School, Va.

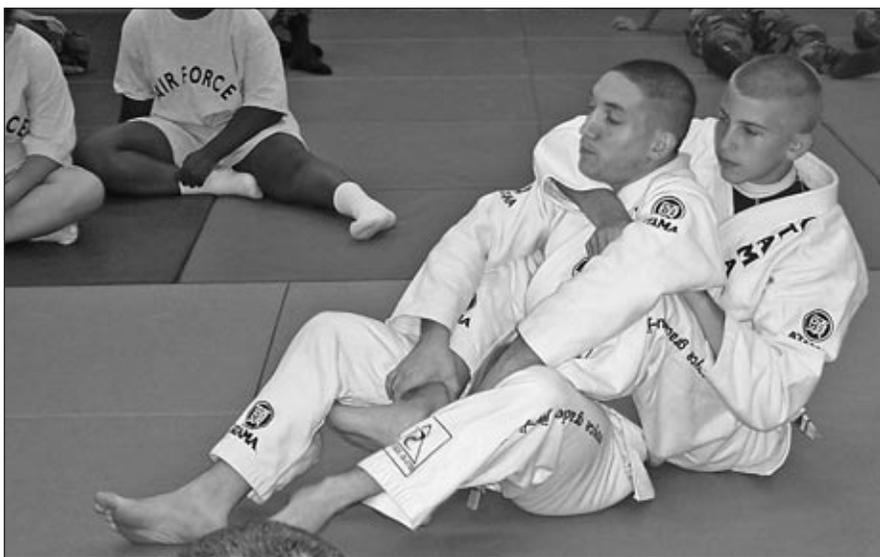
**P**roiciency in hand-to-hand combat is a useful tool for Airmen who work in certain environments.

Many military operations, such as peacekeeping missions or non-combatant evacuation, may restrict the use of deadly weapons. Hand-to-hand combative training can save lives when an unexpected confrontation occurs.

As a part of VA-20013's physical training program, the cadets at King William High School are using the hand-to-hand combat training to liven their workout program as well as increase their self-confidence and discipline.

Cadets practice hand-to-hand combat techniques weekly. The training engages two or more persons in an empty-handed struggle or hand-held weapon situation.

The combat instructor, John Si-



*Courtesy photo*

*Cadet Chris Shipes demonstrates the back mount position on the instructor, John Simons. Below: Cadet Shipes prepares to battle Cadet Hunter Cridlin with pugil sticks.*

mons III, is a certified Royce Gracie Jiu-Jitsu representative as well as a certified U.S. Army combative instructor. He donates his time and equipment as service to his com-

munity.

At the end of the school year, each flight will compete against each other for the Outstanding Flight award. ■



# Cadets meet Air University commander

CO-20001, Mitchell High School, Co.

The Air University commander visited Mitchell High School in November. Lt. Gen. Stephen Lorenz is visiting field units to get a better understanding of the mission and meet the people who make it happen.

As commander of Air University, General Lorenz is responsible for the Air Force's education programs ranging from pre-commissioning to the highest levels of professional military education for officers, enlisted and civilian personnel. This includes the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs.

The cadet commander, Cadet Ashley Schmalz, and her senior staff briefed General Lorenz on the unit's history, goals, flight competition, recognition programs and community activities.

"We definitely wanted General Lorenz to understand the impact that our unit is making on our school and community," said Cadet Schmalz.

After the briefing, General Lorenz complimented the cadet staff on their presentation. He



*Courtesy photos*

*The Mitchell High School saber team practices their routine before General Lorenz's visit to Mitchell High School, Co., in November.*

*Below: Lt. Gen. Stephen Lorenz, Air University commander, shakes Cadet Kaitlyn Madeline hand after the unit's physical training session in November.*

talked to senior cadets about their goals and future plans after high schools and the importance of the

Junior ROTC Program.

General Lorenz also toured the facilities and observed the unit's honor guard to include the armed drill team, color guard and ceremonial saber team. The teams were preparing for the Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade. He also watched the cadets during their physical training exercises. General Lorenz commented on their discipline, motivation and teamwork. He then introduced himself to the entire flight by shaking each of the cadet's hands.

"General Lorenz's visit to Mitchell High School was a great moment for the corps and our school, and he was pretty cool," Cadet Schmalz. ■



# Mississippi cadets recovering from the storm help local community

By Cadets Erica Ammentorp, Kimberly Rabideau and Donna Compton

MS-934, Bay High School, Miss.

**B**ay High School MS-934 Junior ROTC has received assistance from the local community, Air Force base and Junior ROTC units after Hurricane Katrina caused damage to their school. To show their appreciation for the help they have received, the unit is supporting local hurricane relief efforts.

Twelve cadets and the instructors from the unit banded together to clean Gene Schloegel's house Dec. 3. The cadets cleaned the inside of the house, the outside walls and the

yard. Mr. Schloegel is the Junior ROTC representative for the Veterans of Foreign Wars posts 77 and 139 in Bay St. Louis and Waveland, Miss. He helped the unit coordinate other projects to help other citizens clean up and recover from the hurricane.

"This project allowed the cadets to show ownership of their community," said retired Chief Master Sgt. Thaddues Peters, aerospace science instructor.

The cadets were pleased to help out a fellow Mississippian.

"We had fun helping out Mr. Gene, who has helped us recover," said Cadet Laura Ramsey.

During the initial aftermath of the storm, the unit's drill team was scattered around the country. It took two months for Bay High School to come back on line. When the cadets returned, they found an entire hallway out of commission and about half of the student population back in class. Despite it all, the drill team is up and running and is scheduled to compete in Montgomery, Ala., in February. ■



*Courtesy photo*

*MS-934 Cadets Joeneka Willis and Laura Ramsey wash the exterior of Gene Schloegel's house in December as a part of the unit's efforts to help the community recover from the damage Hurricane Katrina left behind.*

# JROTC unit awarded overall trophy

CA-911, Jurupa Valley High School, Calif.

Jurupa Valley High School's Junior ROTC cadets took home the overall championship trophy for the first time in the school's history at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Drill/Performance Teams Competitions in August at Salt Lake City, Utah.

The 13-cadets team earned top points in unarmed drill and in female color guard, taking the overall national championship. While CA-911, under retired Chief Master Sgt. Mack White's direction, has won a national drill championship before, this is the first overall championship for the unit.

The competition included units from across the United States with representation from all the branches of the armed services.

Cadets Matt Alexander and Cindy Aguilar both took first place in their respective solo rifle competitions, yet another first for the unit.

"The cadets were filled with enthusiasm, anxious to get on the field to perform. They practiced over the hot months of July and August ... building self-confidence and discipline that will carry over far beyond the drill pad," said Chief White.

He also praised his cadets for their behavior both on and off the field. "They displayed great sportsmanship and were supportive of each other and the other competitors. I am so very proud of this team!"

In addition to building self-confidence and discipline, the cadets walked away with a special memory of the event.

"This has been a wonderful experience that we will never forget. Chief White made all of this possible and nev-

er gave up on us. Now, we are national champions," said Cadet Dalia Valdez.

Chief White has led the cadets in national competitions over the years that included events in Missouri, Texas, Wisconsin and Arizona. ■

**"They practiced over the hot months ... building self-confidence and discipline that will carry over far beyond the drill pad."**

— retired Chief Master Sgt. Mack White

CA-911 aerospace science instructor



Courtesy photos

Upper right: CA-911 Cadet Cindy Aguilar twirls her demilitarized weapon during the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Drill/Performance Teams Competition in August at Salt Lake City, Utah.

Above: CA-911 Cadets Christopher Schuman and Cindy Aguilar are two of the cadets on the team to win the overall championship at the competition in August.



## On the lookout

*Cadet Bethany Foley, from Det. 810 at Baylor University, Texas, crouches down and takes aim at fellow cadets while playing paintball in October. Cadets battled it out against each other, by using the teambuilding and strategy skills they learned in ROTC throughout the semester, for four exciting and fun paintball games.*

The A/OA-10 Thunderbolt II is the first Air Force aircraft specially designed for close air support of ground forces. They are simple, effective and survivable twin-engine jet aircraft that can be used against all ground targets, including tanks and other armored vehicles.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Strang)

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