



Best Alive!

Newsletter



End of an Era: Reflecting on Another Successful Semester

The Spring 2018 semester has come to an end, and new opportunities lie ahead from summer training, to new cadre, to commissionees going out representing the best alive. However, we like to take this time to reflect on the incredible accomplishments that cadets have achieved.

The detachment experienced selfless and courageous leadership from the Wing Commander C/Gogal and his staff. Cadets earned global development opportunities through Project GO. Of course, there were traditional training events – some experiencing record-breaking numbers such as our PFA. Now, the detachment gets to look forward to C/White taking over the Wing and new cadre overseeing our success!

Take a look for yourself on just how Det. 875 becomes the best alive!

- C/Ragan, Public Affairs/CC

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Project GO Selects!

C/ Cummings



*Picture provided by C/Fulgenzi from Project Go Oman

Project Global Officer (Project GO) is a Department of Defense initiative aimed at improving the language skills, regional expertise, and intercultural communication skills of future military officers. Since 2007, Project Go institutions have provided over 4,500 domestic and overseas summer scholarships to ROTC students for critical language study. This year, 12 Det. 875 cadets were selected for Project GO this summer.

Their hard work and dedication to learning more, and going beyond have paid off to a chance at an excellent opportunity. Congratulations to C/Stevens, V., C/Fulgenzi, C/Fite, C/Kang, C/Dobrowolski, C/Krusiec, C/Hawley, C/Schlesinger, C/Houghtling, C/McKay, C/Shea, C/Clarence for your selection. Det. 875 is proud and recognizes your achievement.

This year is C/Clarence's first time participating in Project GO. He is a Russian and Criminology double major and is going to Latvia this coming summer. He says that what made him interested in and apply for Project GO was "the credits, you get 9, having heard positive feedback from others that have gone previously, and the diverse cultural background." C/Clarence says that he is most excited about "getting outside of the US, as I have never been outside the US, meeting new people, and sharing/learning different cultures."

C/Krusiec is a History major and a Mandarin Chinese and Asian Studies minor. This year is C/Krusiec's second time participating in Project GO. He went to Guilin, China, and Guangxi Province last summer and is returning this coming summer. He said that his reason for applying for Project GO the first time was through "former upperclassman and Col Torrens talking about Project GO and how it will improve speaking skills and communication with others." His reason for reapplying this year was that he had a great time last year and now looks forward to being able to immerse in another's culture. His favorite part of Project GO last year was learning, food, and friends. "I had friends from Tech and friends I made in China, other countries, and states," he said. "I look forward to going back to see how much I've learned and how much I've come along. To get more immerse and go out of the way to find hidden gems." Three words C/Krusiec would describe Project GO are "explore, opportunity, and learning."

This summer is the last time C/Clarence and C/Krusiec are planning to participate in Project GO as they are commissioning after this summer; however, C/Krusiec said: "I would do it again in a heartbeat."



PFA Success

C/Wolter

This past PFA was incredibly successful. C/Houghtling and C/Truslow worked hard to prepare the Wing and are happy with the results! C/Houghtling also believes that the Wing performed very well given that there was a relatively short period of time between the start of the semester and the PFA.

One central part of the PFA frequently overlooked is the logistical side of things. Captain McGan expressed that the logistics for this PFA were particularly tricky. Elements such as lighting, 8 am classes, and the times that cadets are allowed to leave the dorms proved to be hard obstacles to conquer. On top of all that, there was the extra hassle of having to reschedule the PFA.



Captain McGan explained that she decided at around 5 am in conjunction with Lieutenant Colonel Cox and Colonel Torrens that the assessment would need rescheduling. She believed that the weather conditions were too poor to conduct a PFA for that day. Ultimately, Captain McGan was very satisfied with the results of the PFA. She believes that the two biggest factors for the success of the PFA were C/Houghtling's and C/Truslow's rigorous preparation of the Wing, and the new height and weight standards. Generally speaking, PT this semester was significantly improved according to both GMC and POC cadets. Workouts were tough and the standard was definitely raised with a strict focus on push-ups, sit-ups, and – when the weather permitted – cardio. There many individual success stories of how PT this semester has helped to get people into shape and to also prepare people for the PFA.

Overall, everybody worked extremely hard to try to hit the Wing goal of a 97 reaching a 96.1. The Wing has achieved one of the best PFA scores in recent detachment history, ranking 5/145 total detachments nationwide. Hopefully we can continue this trend into future semesters.

AFTX

C/Marrero



On the weekend of 20-21 April, Detachment 875 conducted their Field Training Exercise held at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant. Over the two days, cadets practiced small unit tactics, glass house clearing, and leadership reaction courses. The exercise began Friday evening with cadets arriving in waves, setting up camp sites by squadron, and establishing common areas and resource stations (First Aid, water, etc.). Afterward, cadets had some personal training time until all everyone was shuttled over. Chow was served at 1800, followed by squadron instructional time to prepare for the next day's events. To end the night, squadrons held informal morale events to compete with other squadrons and build camaraderie. After a brisk night's sleep, squadrons began their training at 0700 the next morning and cycled through five different stations focusing on medical/ordinance clearing, house clearing, small unit tactics, flight missions, and individual leadership reaction courses.

When asked about her experience, first year cadet (AS100) Rebekah Crump commented, "[she] really enjoyed seeing the AS200's step up to lead stations. Watching where they all were at the beginning of the year and now has been amazing. Seeing them take leadership roles...gave them a great opportunity to figure out what did and didn't work for them as they head to Field Training this summer." Her opinion, shared by many of her contemporaries, demonstrates the hard work the Air Force ROTC cadre and cadet command put into training their cadets for success both at Field Training, and later in the United States Air Force.



Combat Dining-In: Warrior Ethos

C/Corradino

Dining-In is an event designed to bring the Wing together and celebrate the accomplishments and growth achieved throughout the past year. It is designed to be a morale boosting event for all six squadrons and is held every other year, alternating with Dining-Out. This year's theme was inspired by the line, "Wingman, Leader, Warrior" from the Airman's Creed. This line from the Airman's Creed embodies what each of our Air Force cadets aspire to be as future members of our Nation's Air Force.

This year the event planners of Dining-In, C/Dyer, C/Albright, and C/Reynolds, have arranged for us to enjoy a mechanical shark and a Warrior Spirit competition between squadrons, as well as a few other surprises. The aforementioned cadets enjoyed working together, as C/Dyer is C/Albright and C/Reynolds mentor! On average, they spent about an hour and a half each weekend planning Dining-In and have been meeting since the beginning of the semester to coordinate a great Dining-In for the Wing. They enjoyed spending quality hours together and were able to get creative with this year's planning and design of Combat Dining-In. With the help of 20 other volunteers, Dining-In was yet again a well organized and morale boosting event for Det 875!



An NCO'S Perspective

Q&A Conducted by C/ Tinker

At Detachment 875 we are lucky enough to have an amazing group of NCOs who work hard day in and day out. These three have a combined total of 35 years in the Air Force, and we got the chance to sit down and learn a little from TSgt Ferebee, SSgt Wingate and SSgt Pettit. They gave the cadets at Detachment 875 some amazing advice that should be taken to heart.

Why did you join the Air Force?

"I was about to have my first child and decided that I needed a steady job to support him. I was riding on the subway in New York one day and saw a poster for the Air Force and I ended up calling the number on the poster." – TSgt Ferebee

"I wanted to have my college paid for and travel the world" – SSgt Pettit

"My dad was in the army and is a preacher so I came from a rather structured home. Also to pay for college and travel the world." – SSgt Wingate

Who was an amazing leader that you encountered in the Air Force and what made them so amazing?

"I actually have two! My commander at Whiteman AFB he was always there and he knew everyone by their first name. He knew when to lock it up and lead sternly but also when to be friendly and compassionate. Secondly, one of my First Sergeants he loved his people and held them accountable. One day I ran into him before he became my first sergeant, and he said "I want you to be the first one in my office when I transfer to your detachment." So I watched for when he would transfer and I was the first in his office." – TSgt Ferebee

"One of my first Lt Colonels, he cared about his people and helped me through a rough time. He took the time to check in on me and that showed me he really cared." – SSgt Pettit

"Major V, during my first deployment with OSI. She was the commander of the operation and ending up losing her life during the mission. She spoke her mind, was easy to talk to, outgoing and never pushed her duties onto others." – SSgt Wingate

What was the most important lesson the Air Force has taught you?

"To grow and mature faster. You also learn how to work with people you don't necessarily agree with." – SSgt Pettit

"Have your own back, work hard and don't rely on others." – SSgt Wingate

"At basic the Air Force really does break you down in order to build you up. And I still learn every day." – TSgt Ferebee

After watching the cadets for over a year now, what would you like to tell us? What wisdom would you like to give us?

"Be true to yourself and everyone. Also, be professional at all times. Saying "huh" and "what" is never an acceptable response to an officer. I personally think that we are the best branch and we must look and act the part. Also, be ready to lead the world. Because that's what you're going to do one day." – TSgt Ferebee

"Never forget to take care of everyone. Your main job is to make sure they're okay. Your people have to know that you truly care about them. Also, you have to train your body for PT. Failing a PT test as an officer is a big deal." – SSgt Pettit

"Don't be afraid to speak up, always have integrity and military bearing." – SSgt Wingate





Armed Forces Special Operations Team

Commander: C/Donahue

Armed Forces Special Operations Preparation Team is an Air Force ROTC organization that strives to develop members' professionalism mentally, morally, and physically. AFSOPT trains and performs at many events throughout the school year. We competed in a Spartan Race with our members taking 1st through 4th. We also competed in the Bulldog Challenge down at the Citadel and took first place. For Virginia Tech, we ran the 3.2 for 32 run while carrying a 400 lb log in honor of the memory of those lost in the April 16th shooting.

Every year our members hold prominent positions within both the Corps and ROTC. Four of the members whom will be graduating this year are: Ian Pezzella (Seal), Josh Monteville (Pilot), Brady Shultz (Surface Warfare Officer), and Jared Filzen (Law Enforcement). For the school year 2017-2018 AFSOPT held a selection for new members and had zero candidates make it. We are looking toward to the Fall semester where we will test new strong candidates for entry into the team. Creating junior officers that never quit and strive to excel in all they do, no matter the conditions has always been both the purpose and the outcome.



Arnold Air Society

Commander: C/Treubert

Arnold Air Society (AAS) is a national service organization that was founded directly after the formation of the Air Force in 1947. The purpose of Arnold Air Society is to develop future Airmen by giving them the opportunity to take on challenging leadership roles and to do meaningful service projects both at the local and national levels. Arnold Air Society has a yearly meeting called the National Convention or NATCON. It is here that AAS detachments from all over the country come together and make plans for the upcoming year. Important service related activities such as the joint national project, a project in which every AAS detachment in the nation participates in, are decided upon.

Nationally, there are more than 3200 active AAS members. Last year these members performed thousands of total hours of community service across the country. As an organization, Arnold Air Society also works very closely with other service-oriented causes. For example, AAS has a close relationship with the AFA wounded Airman program; an organization dedicated to Airmen that have been wounded either in battle or stateside. AAS helps to raise money for this program and other programs like US CyberPatriot and STEM Kits. There is also an active outreach to young Air Force Junior ROTC cadets that aspire to one day commission as Air Force officers.

Beyond the national view of AAS, individual detachments will frequently help out their regional areas by conducting local service projects. These local projects not only help the local community, but they also serve as training grounds for cadets to take on new and challenging leadership positions.

Overall, Arnold Air Society is a fantastic organization to join for aspiring Air Force officers. It serves as a platform to give back to both local communities and the nation.

Robert Femoyer Service Squadron

Commander: C/Satterfield



The Robert Femoyer Service Squadron is a professional development, leadership, and community service AFROTC organization. They do much of this through various service activities that have amounted to over 500 total service hours this semester. Some examples are working with the VT Police Department in active shooter response training, working as the largest group at The Big Event, and participating in the Montgomery County Animal Shelter Project, and helping serve as college mentors for younger kids. They also help train new Air Force cadets in preparation for Field Training the summer of their sophomore year. They have held 8 sessions with over 50 participants so far this semester.

With 62 participants, they recently inducted 18 new members this Spring. These new members had to meet demanding GPA, PT, and other requirements as well as complete the tap process to join.

Flyers

Commander: C/Green



Air Force Flyers is an organization whose primary mission is to produce pilot candidates for the United States Air Force. This year they began undergoing a restructuring of the organization to better accomplish that mission. They started reaching out and opening up some of the activities Flyers puts together to cadets that aren't in the organization.

Flyers strives to achieve their mission through hosting simulator nights designated for any Air Force cadets to come practice on the simulator to develop skills required for flying. In addition, they held informational briefs focused around aviation, undergraduate pilot training (UPT), and the PICSM score. Furthermore, their members have rare opportunities to earn flight instruction hours at a reduced rate through connections with organizations such as the Civil Air Patrol. This semester alone, Flyers accepted 13 new members who will help Flyers continue to grow and develop in the coming years.

LLAB Spring 2018





PT Spring 2018

PAIN IS FUN



AFROTC DET. 875
WADSWORTH ONE







Saying "Good-bye" to The Best Alive: Commissionees and Cadre

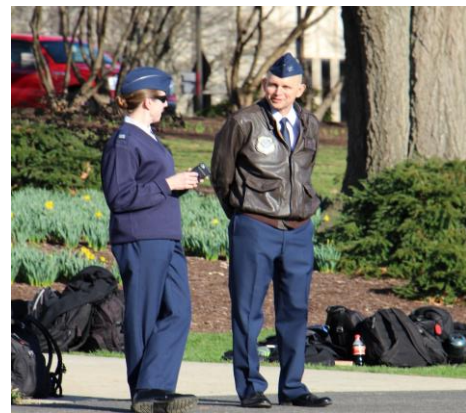
Paul Aanestad

Matthew Remson

Retiring: Colonel Cameron
Torrens

Luke Bergeron

Joshua Resenbeck



Jacob Brender A Brandis

Noel Sheaffer

Riley Cooper

Michael Sherburne

Michael D'Avella

Austin Shumate

Beth Demyanovich

Michelle Sing-Guillen

Forrest Doss

Grace Spencer

Dimostheis Doulamis

Zachary Stossel

Retiring: Lieutenant Colonel
Robert A. Ward

Kathryn Dyer

Kathryn Theiss

John Hawley

James Tucker



Benjamin Howe

Brandon A. Tull

Jasmine Jacobs

John A. Tully

Isaiah Johnson

Kimberly Turcios

Rebecca Leonard

Michael Venkat

PCS: Captain Saira McGan

James Magill, III

John Daniel Vera Cruz

Martino McCartney

Timothy Viere

Matthew Mumbach

Andrew Vogel

Kavi Muraleetharan

Katy Wheeler

Benjamin Pederson

Zachary Yacone

Mary Claire Ragan

Logan Zook



*August Commissionee: Caleb Fields

Public Affairs Staff

Spring 2018

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C/Tinker

Journalism Staff

C/Corradino

C/Cummings

C/Marrero

C/Sweat

C/Wolter

Head of Photography

C/Einhorn

Photography Staff

C/Ha

C/Lou

C/Manansala

C/McNees

C/Meyer

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