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DET 030

Thunderhaws



University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas

MEMORANDUM

TO: Provost Bob Smith

FROM: AFROTC DET 30/CC

DATE: August 10, 2005

SUBJECT: Air Force ROTC Annual Report

1. Overall Assessment: The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) program at the University of Arkansas continues to exceed Air Force standards and make a positive impact on campus and in the local community. The detachment staff continues to do an outstanding job ensuring day-to-day operations are conducted in an exemplary manner, while striving to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of our training. Once again, improved training, recruiting and retention of high caliber students/officer candidates were our major focus areas for the year. We think we made significant strides in all areas despite the fact that the number of cadets participating in our program has declined from the high numbers recorded just a few years ago. Our students are excited about the program and serve as our best recruiters as well as stellar ambassadors for the University. Our AFROTC program is moving in the right direction—quality over quantity in a time of lower accessions into the Air Force officer corps. We expect to continue the detachment's positive momentum and excellent service to our nation and the University of Arkansas in 2005-2006.

2. Enrollment Information ('04-'05 academic year): Enrollment has continued to decline from the previous year. For the present we expect to maintain slightly lower numbers compared with recent years in commissioning new lieutenants. We continue working to increase awareness of the benefits of the Air Force ROTC program in order to attract new students/cadets at all levels.

Total Cadets	68 (04-05) / 85 (03-04)		
AS100 (freshman level)	21	Females	6
AS200 (sophomore level)	19	Minorities	8
AS300 (junior level)	10		
AS400 (senior level)	15		
AS500 (non-contract cadets competing for POC)	1		
AS700 (fifth-year seniors)	2		
		On scholarship / freshman scholarships	34 / 11
		Contracted (enlisted, pending commission)	38
Commissioned in 2004 - 05	16	Summer '04 Field Training attendees	24
Projected to commission 2005 - 06	15	Summer '05 Field Training projections	14

3. Personnel Information: Once again, the detachment staff experienced significant turnover this year. Two of five active duty personnel departed and have been replaced.

- a. Major Jeffrey Brown, a reserve officer who will complete his three year active duty tour in early October, served as our Commandant of Cadets this year. He has been replaced by Captain Michael Murders. Captain Murders has over 15 years of service and comes to us from Seventh Air Force, Osan Air Base, Korea. Mike has been selected for promotion to major and should pin his new rank on either January or February of next year. Captain Murders has experience as an instructor at a junior college and background in training and curriculum development for NATO. In addition to serving as the Commandant of Cadets, Captain Murders will teach AS 400 classes.
- b. Technical Sergeant Shawn Walker, our Information Manager, completed his final year at the detachment and is in the process of moving to F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming. Shawn served the detachment and the University for four years. He has been replaced by Staff Sergeant Therese G. Soliz de Torres, who comes to the detachment after serving at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey.
- c. Captain James "Craig" Bench continues to serve as our Unit Admissions Officer. He has 18 years experience in the Air Force and was promoted to Captain in November. He has been a great asset to the detachment and made tremendous improvements in recruiting activities to bring students here to the University during his first year. In addition to serving as the Unit Admissions Officer, Captain Bench teaches the AS 300 classes.
- d. Technical Sergeant Hattie Douglas begins her second school year serving as our Personnel Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO). She is so well thought of by ROTC Headquarters that she was asked to help teach the new NCOs heading to other detachments this summer.
- e. Ms Denise Smith, our secretary, completed her fourth year with the program and continues to be a tremendous asset to the detachment. She ensures that we stay in line with university policies and procedures, and acts as the translator between the various military and university systems. We think we have one of the best secretaries on the campus and we know we couldn't function without her.
- f. I also begin my second school year in a job I absolutely love. We have a fine staff working with truly outstanding young people at a wonderful, supportive University. If things go according to plan, I'll be the Professor of Aerospace Studies for two more school years.

4. Professional Development and Training Highlights:

- a. The detachment hosted our 4th annual Career Day in conjunction with our Holiday Social at the Student Union Ballroom on Tuesday, December 7. Colonel Charles Hamilton, commander of the 314th Operations Group at Little Rock Air Force Base, was our guest speaker. Six junior officers from Little Rock accompanied him and mingled with the cadets, talking with them about their career fields and experiences in the Air Force. These activities helped our cadets better comprehend what they have to look forward to as Air Force officers.

- b. In August 2004, we commissioned three new lieutenants. This brought the total for fiscal year 2004 to 16 new lieutenants commissioned by Detachment 30. We will probably not sustain this high production over the next few years as the Air Force is overmanned in the officer ranks and is cutting back on the number of scholarships offered and the number of new officers being commissioned each year.
- c. The detachment celebrated Thanksgiving by hosting our 7th annual Thanksgiving Feast. Over 80 people, including cadets, and university and local VIPs, enjoyed the meal and fellowship. Dinner was provided and served by the staff.
- d. We commissioned five new second lieutenants in December. We were fortunate to have Colonel Christopher Matson, Commander of the 509th Maintenance Group at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, as our guest speaker.
- e. During our spring base visit, Major Brown and Sergeant Douglas escorted 12 cadets on a highly productive, 4-day whirlwind tour of Texas and Oklahoma. During their trip, they visited the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter production facility at the Lockheed-Martin plant in Fort Worth. From there, they went to Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, met with junior officers from a variety of career fields and toured several training facilities. The group then traveled to Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, where they toured the base and flew in a C-17 transport aircraft. Finally, the Detachment 30 contingent stopped at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. There, they toured several depot aircraft maintenance shops and were given static display tours of a B-1 bomber and E-3A AWACS aircraft.
- f. The detachment continued a tradition of hosting Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and Air Force Junior ROTC units during the year. We hosted a total of 40 CAP and JROTC cadets (high school students) from units in Cabot, Rogers and Muskogee, Oklahoma, providing tours of the campus, briefings from the Admissions Office and an opportunity to train with our cadets during Thursday leadership lab.
- g. The cadets in our Arnold Air Society in conjunction with the Cadet Wing and our staff performed a 24-hour vigil at the POW/MIA memorial on the campus in conjunction with the annual POW Recognition Day. Many students stopped to ask questions and comment on the vigil. The vigil was featured on local television newscasts and in the campus newspaper.
- h. The detachment held its annual Spring Dining-Out, which featured 1972 detachment/university alumnus Major General Robert Chedister, Commander of the Air Armament Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, as our guest speaker. Over 250 people attended the April 30th event, with good participation from the local Air Force Association and parents of our cadets. General Chedister gave an inspirational speech and demonstrated by his presence that our graduates can reach high levels of rank and responsibility in the Air Force.
- i. Brigadier General Joseph Rehieser, Commander of the 314th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base spoke at our spring commissioning ceremony. We commissioned eight new lieutenants during the ceremony. General and Mrs Rehieser also attended the commencement dinner at the Walton Arts Center.

- j. On July 1, we commissioned our final two new lieutenants for the year.
- k. A highlight of the year for Detachment 30 was the selection rate for our cadets who applied for pilot training. Seven out of seven applicants were accepted for pilot training in a year when the selection rate for all of Air Force ROTC was 59 percent. This is stark evidence of both the quality of our graduates and the excellent work putting together the nomination packages by our cadre.
- l. In an effort to increase our effectiveness in the classroom, Captain Bench and I have attended most of the New Teacher Luncheons sponsored by the Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center. I also attended the annual Teacher's Retreat in Eureka Springs in July. We have picked up numerous tips and techniques that have helped us become better instructors.
- m. In October, we were inspected by two members of the Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools Inspector General staff. The detachment received "Excellent" ratings in all areas and overall, with special kudos in several areas. "Excellent" is the second highest rating possible.

5. Community Service Highlights:

- a. Cadets and staff members participated in the annual Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day ceremony held at the local veterans' hospital. I was the guest speaker. The event was featured on a local television newscast.
- b. In November, staff members and cadets participated in several Veterans' Day activities, including local parades, recognition ceremonies, and a military ball.
- c. In February, cadets and staff members visited the local veteran's hospital in recognition of Valentines for Vets Day. The group handed out candy and delivered Valentine greetings from local elementary school students.
- d. During the year our detachment Color Guard posted the colors at five Razorback home football games, six Razorback men's home basketball games and five Lady Gymback home gymnastics meets. The Color Guard also posted the colors at numerous community events and social gatherings, including very well attended performances by two Air Force band ensembles at the Walton Arts Center and Springdale Performing Arts Center.
- e. Throughout the year we have participated in several community service projects, including community cleanup efforts, clothes/food drives, adopting families during the holidays, blood drives, and numerous veteran-related activities.

6. Request for support: Our only request is to continue the great support you've provided over the year. We feel extremely fortunate to have such a supportive University family.