

2006

DET 030 ThunderHawks, 2005-2006

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Air Force ROTC

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DET 030

Thunderhaws



University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas

MEMORANDUM

TO: Provost Bob Smith
FROM: AFROTC DET 30/CC
DATE: August 1, 2006
SUBJECT: Air Force ROTC Annual Report

1. Overall Assessment: The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) program at the University of Arkansas (Detachment 30) continues to train and commission some of the most highly qualified new lieutenants in the United States Air Force. During the 2005-2006 academic year, improved training, recruiting and retention of high caliber students/officer candidates continued as our major focus areas. Although the Air Force has consciously limited the recruiting potential of its ROTC detachments in recent years, we at Detachment 30 continue to attract, retain, and prepare extremely high-quality students/cadets. Upon returning from their four-to-six-week field training encampments (typically accomplished the summer after the sophomore year), our cadets routinely express gratitude and admiration for the high level of morale and instruction they experience at the University of Arkansas. We fully plan to continue our excellent service to the University of Arkansas, our community, our nation, and the world in 2006-2007.

2. Enrollment Information ('05-'06 academic year): Enrollment has declined again from the previous year. We expect this trend to continue as Air Force demand for new officers remains low and the selection process becomes more competitive nationally. We continue working to recruit and retain eligible University of Arkansas students as we believe our students rival the best anywhere.

Total Cadets	59 (05-06) / 68 (04-05)		
AS100 (freshman level)	23	Females	6
AS200 (sophomore level)	10	Minorities	6
AS300 (junior level)	8		
AS400 (senior level)	9		
AS500 (non-contract cadets competing for POC)	3		
AS700 (fifth-year seniors)	6		

Commissioned in 2005 - 06	12	Summer '05 Field Training attendees	12

<u>2005-06</u>			
Contracted, not on scholarship	5		
On scholarship / freshman	41 / 6 (included in the 41)		
Total Contracted	46		

Projected to commission 2006 - 07	13	Summer '06 Field Training projections	15

3. Personnel Information: Our detachment staff is experiencing one turnover this summer – that of our unit commander / department head. Aside from this significant change, we are fortunate to retain the rest of our staff from the 2005-2006 school year.

- a. Major Michael Murders, who pinned on the rank of Major in February, begins his second year as our Commandant of Cadets. He also teaches our AS 100 and 200 classes. Adding the past year’s experience to a wealth of sound, innovative ideas on cadet training, Major Murders certainly enhances the depth of our unit. Our cadets have him to thank for their thorough and highly practical overall training.
- b. Captain James “Craig” Bench begins his third year as our Unit Admissions Officer. He continues to be a great asset to the detachment and a solid ambassador for the University. He persistently seeks increasingly effective means of communicating to new and potential students the benefits of the Air Force ROTC program in general and at the University of Arkansas in particular. In addition, he has streamlined and reorganized numerous reports in order to make them accessible and helpful to the rest of the AFROTC staff. In addition to serving as the Unit Admissions Officer, Captain Bench teaches the AS 300 classes.
- c. Technical Sergeant Hattie Douglas begins her third academic year serving as our Personnel Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO). She is so well thought of by ROTC Headquarters that she was again asked to help teach the new NCOs heading to other detachments this summer (June 13-30).
- d. Staff Sergeant Therese Soliz Torres (soon to be promoted to Technical Sergeant) begins her second year as our NCO for Information Management. Thorough and conscientious, she processes forms for cadets and staff with great care, and her customer service is beyond reproach. We are truly fortunate to have SSgt Torres at our detachment to help ensure everything runs smoothly for our cadets.
- e. Ms Denise Smith, our secretary, completed her fifth year with the department and continues to benefit our unit with her knowledge of university procedures and cheerful customer service. Our most veteran AFROTC staff member, her memory is appreciated as well.
- f. After two years of dedicated service as the commander of AFROTC Detachment 30, Lt Col Gage Bleakley retired from the Air Force, vacating his position here. His last day at Det 30 was July 12 and on July 26, I began my tenure as AFROTC Detachment 30 commander / department head. I look forward to teaching the AS 400 class and working with the great students, faculty and staff here at the University of Arkansas.

4. Professional Development and Training Highlights:

- a. Commissioning: This year (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006) we were privileged to commission a total of 12 new lieutenants. Two were commissioned on July 1, 2005 (and are also referenced in the 2005 annual report). One was commissioned December 16, 2005. Another nine were commissioned on May 12, 2006, bringing the total to 12. Our speaker for the May ceremony was Brigadier General Riley P. Porter, Chief of Staff of the Arkansas Air National Guard and Joint Force Component Commander of the

Arkansas National Guard. He is a U of A Det 30 alumnus. In addition, we commissioned our first new lieutenant of the 2006-07 academic year on July 7.

- b. Pilot / navigator selection: again this year, we had extraordinary success in the selection rate for our cadets applying for pilot and navigator training. Four out of five applicants (80%) were accepted for pilot training – well above the national average of roughly sixty percent. Two out of two applicants were accepted for navigator training, including the non-selected pilot applicant.
- c. Field training preparation: our junior and senior-level cadets did an outstanding job planning and implementing creative training activities for those slated to attend field training this summer. Field Leadership Training exercises were held at Devil’s Den State Park the weekend of October 29. Two others were held this spring: April 1 (Drake Field) and April 22 (Baptist church on Porter Road). The result: as of June 30, two of our first group of field training attendees had earned the honor of Distinguished Graduate; another, Superior Performer; and four of the six were ranked in the top third of their group – and recommended to be Cadet Training Assistants at next year’s encampments.
- d. Symposium representative: one of our cadets was selected by our regional command unit to represent the AFROTC Southwest Region at the U.S. Air Force Academy’s 13th National Character and Leadership Symposium. The conference was held in Colorado Springs from February 23 through February 25 and featured presentations from an impressive group of speakers, including handicapped motivational speakers and a holocaust survivor. Our cadet came back enthused and eager to relay details to his fellow cadets, which he did at one of their leadership laboratories.
- e. Civilian interns: this summer we were able to send three University of Arkansas non-ROTC engineering students to internships at Air Force research facilities in Florida (Tyndall Air Force Base) and Ohio (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base). We also had the privilege of sending a member of the University of Arkansas’ engineering faculty to Florida to observe the interns for two days. Very few schools had such good representation at the Air Force engineering internship sites.
- f. Cadet educational travel: this summer we sent almost all of our rising sophomore cadets on short visits to various Air Force bases as part of a nationwide push to introduce cadets early to the “real Air Force.” In addition, three of our upper-level cadets were selected to go on Air Force sponsored trips to Morocco, Germany, and Spain, respectively.
- g. Air show volunteers: Lt Col Bleakley arranged for twelve cadets to accompany him as volunteers to the Little Rock Air Force Base 50th Anniversary Air Show the weekend of October 8. The cadets assisted with logistical help for the distinguished visitors at the air show. In return they were able to stay in a simulated deployment setting at no cost, and to see much of the air show. Colonel Travis Balch, commander of the Arkansas Air Guard wing in Little Rock, arranged for the cadets to be briefed by his Intel Squadron and shoot on his Security Force Squadron’s indoor training range.
- h. Cadet-organized large-scale functions: our two biggest practice tools for cadets learning to organize major events were (again this year) our winter social and our spring dining-out (formal dinner/dance). The winter social was held at the Alumni House on December

6, 2005. Colonel J.R. Dallas, Commander of the 188th Fighter Wing of the Arkansas Air Guard spoke on “10 Things I Wish Somebody Had Told Me When I Was a Lieutenant.” The spring dining-out was held at the Radisson on April 29, 2006. Brigadier General Kip Self, Commander of the 314th Air Wing (Little Rock Air Force Base) served as the guest speaker. Both events were deemed a success by cadre and visitors.

- i. Cadet-organized distinguished speaker event: one of our law-school cadets, with the help of a few other cadets, did all the planning and legwork to bring to campus Brigadier General Jarisse Sanborn. General Sanborn serves as Staff Judge Advocate, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. She spoke at the law school the evening of April 26 and dined with cadets during breakfast and lunch the following day. Her topics included the assistance Air Force lawyers provided in writing the new Iraqi constitution. (The University of Arkansas’ School of Law currently has 13 graduates serving as JAG officers.)
- j. Cadet-organized activity day for high school students: on April 20, 2006 two groups of high school students visited our detachment: Greenwood High School’s Air Force Junior ROTC unit and high school members of the Civil Air Patrol unit in Rogers. Cadets worked out logistics with the groups’ leaders, and planned the visitors’ itinerary, including lunch (provided by Captain Bench via Air Force center of influence funds), a tour of the campus and team-building exercises. Captain Bench supplied the students with pamphlets and brochures as well as a briefing on AFROTC opportunities. University staff from the Office of Admissions and College of Engineering also provided information to the students.
- k. First-rate guest speaker program: in addition to General Sanborn’s visit, and our winter social and dining-out speakers, we brought in the following guest lecturers for our cadets: Colonel Travis Balch, commander of the Arkansas Air Guard unit in Little Rock (September 15 leadership lab); Captain Lamli, JAG officer from Little Rock Air Force Base (October 20 leadership lab); Mr. Garry Richey, Executive Director of the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center (November 10 leadership lab); group of Company Grade Officers from Little Rock Air Force Base (March 2 leadership lab); and a group of Senior Non-Commissioned Officers from Little Rock Air Force Base (March 30 leadership lab).
- l. Ceremonial vigil: the Cadet Wing, in conjunction with Arnold Air Society, sponsored a 24-hour MIA vigil at the permanent POW/MIA memorial in front of Old Main (dedicated by the detachment in 2003). Cadets stood vigil in two-person teams for 24 hours between the 15th and 16th of September.
- m. Instructor/staff development: (1.) On December 16, 2005, TSgt Douglas (our personnel expert) completed six weeks of NCO Academy instruction held at Maxwell Air Force Base. She earned the designation of Distinguished Graduate. (2.) On June 21, 2006, Captain Bench completed a distance-learning Squadron Officer School course (part of the Air Force curriculum for officer continuing education). (3.) Captain Bench enriched his “instructor tool kit” this summer at the University’s teaching retreat in Eureka Springs, July 23-26 sponsored by the Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center. (4.) Major Murders attended several New Faculty Luncheons focused on honing one’s teaching skills, sponsored by the Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center.

5. Community Service Highlights:

- a. VA Hospital ceremonies: Major Murders and Captain Bench were extremely active on the committee for the VA Hospital's MIA/POW Ceremony held on September 15, 2005. Our Honor Guard posted the colors and performed the POW-MIA table observance before a large group in attendance. Additionally, we had dog tags made for each Arkansas MIA and provided them to the VA Hospital for future ceremonies. Cadets and cadre participated in a similar VA ceremony again in March 2006.
- b. Veterans' Day activities: the cadets marched in the annual Northwest Arkansas Veterans' Day Parade and our honor guard posted the colors in a Veterans' Day ceremony at Northwest Arkansas Community College in Rogers. Cadre members served on the board of directors for Northwest Arkansas Veterans Day Parade Association.
- c. Community fundraiser: on Saturday, October 22, our cadets participated in and helped conduct the first "Bob Kraynik Fun Run" at Vandergriff Elementary School.
- d. Colonel Bob Kraynik was the AFROTC Det 30 commander / department head in the mid-90s. After he retired, he settled in Fayetteville with his family and taught physical education at Vandergriff Elementary School. The fun run was held to raise money for a track and field complex to be named after Col Kraynik. The cadets helped raise \$70K for the school.
- e. Valentines for Vets: on February 13, 2006, cadets and staff members visited the local veterans' hospital in recognition of Valentines for Vets Day. The group handed out (sugarless) candy and delivered Valentine greetings from local elementary school students.
- f. Honor guard: in addition to posting the colors at university football games, basketball games, and gymnastics meets, our honor guard keeps a busy community-service schedule. Recently (Spring 2006), the honor guard presented the colors at a VA ceremony, a performance by the Air Force Band of Mid-America in Bentonville (a community concert sponsored in part by a local newspaper), and a local elementary school field day honoring parents who were serving or had served in the military.
- g. Red and White Day: four busy cadets volunteered to spend Saturday, April 15, assisting with security at a charity-driven flag football game held in conjunction with the University's spring football Red and White Day. The cadets also helped Champions for Kids build a few of the concert stages north of the Broyles Complex. Money from the event went to local organizations that assist children and mentally handicapped people.

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.