

2007

## DET 030 ThunderHawgs, 2006-2007

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Air Force ROTC

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# **DET 030**

**Thunderhaws**



## **University of Arkansas**

Fayetteville, Arkansas

**Executive Summary**  
**of AFROTC Detachment 30's Annual Report**  
**(31 July 2006- 30 June 2007)**  
**to the University of Arkansas**

Commissioned 13 new lieutenants into the active duty Air Force (one on December 15, 2006 and twelve on May 11, 2007)

Six out of eight applicants (75%) were accepted for pilot training – well above the national average of about 64%. The remaining two were selected for navigator training.

For the second year in a row, cadre members took several cadets to Little Rock Air Force Base as volunteers to escort VIP's at the base's November 3<sup>rd</sup> air show.

In the fall and in the spring, cadre and cadets held active positions on the committee for the VA Hospital's MIA/POW ceremonies. The fall ceremony was held in conjunction with Veterans' Day, and the spring ceremony took place April 16, 2007. During each ceremony our honor guard posted the colors and performed the POW-MIA table observance.

Valentines for Vets: the week of February 14 (which fell on a Wednesday this year), cadets and staff members visited the local veterans' hospital in recognition of Valentines for Vets Day. Different cadets visited on each day and handed out Valentine greetings from local elementary school students.

In March the cadre took a small group of cadets on a multi-day tour of Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. They saw "up close and personal" the B-2 Stealth Bomber, the A-10 Warthog, and one army helicopter.

In April the cadets planned, organized and executed an Air Force Dining-Out (formal dinner/dance) for 120+ people. Brigadier General Gregory Biscone, Commander of the 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing (Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri) served as the guest speaker.

On their own initiative, the cadets researched a worthy charity then planned and executed a "Hope and Possibility" 5K to raise funds for the Achilles Freedom Team (a division of the International Achilles Track Club). The Achilles Track Club encourages and enables people with all types of disabilities to become involved in running, and the Achilles Freedom Team focuses on wounded veterans. The Freedom Team provides newly wounded veterans with handcrank wheelchairs, prosthetics, physical training and support to convince them they can still accomplish great things. Over \$2,000 was donated to Achilles.

The Honor Guard posted the colors mainly at university football games, basketball games, and gymnastics meets. Our honor guard members remain great ambassadors for the University of Arkansas and the Air Force, but school comes first.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Provost Bob Smith  
FROM: AFROTC DET 30/CC  
DATE: August 15, 2007  
SUBJECT: Air Force ROTC Annual Report

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**1. Overall Assessment:** The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) program at the University of Arkansas (Detachment 30) continues to prepare and commission some of the most highly qualified new lieutenants in the United States Air Force. In addition, our cadets who return from their four or six-week field training encampments continue to express a high level of appreciation for the great morale and thorough 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 2007-2008.

**2. Enrollment Information ('06-'07 academic year):** Enrollment remains somewhat low. We continue to expect lower than average numbers as Air Force demand for new officers remains low and the selection process becomes more competitive nationally. We continue working to aggressively recruit and retain eligible University of Arkansas students as we believe our students rival the best anywhere.

Total Cadets	<b>55 (06-07) / 59 (05-06)</b>	
Freshmen	13	23
Sophomores	11	10
Juniors who have not completed field training	2	3
Juniors	9	8
Seniors	15	9
Fifth-year seniors (completed cadets)	5	6

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Commissioned in 2006 - 07	13	Summer '06 Field Training attendees	14
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2006-07

Contracted, not on scholarship	8
On scholarship	39 (includes 6 freshman)
Total Contracted	47

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Projected to commission 2007 - 08	12	Summer '07 Field Training projections	11
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**3. Personnel Information:** Our detachment staff is fortunate to experience no turnover this summer. Going into the Fall 07 semester, our cadre members will again be:

- a. Lt Col Lionel Mellott, who will begin his second year as Commander of AFROTC Detachment 30, and will also serve as instructor of the senior-level cadets.
- b. Major Michael Murders, who will serve as our Unit Admissions Officer this coming year, and will teach the freshman- and sophomore-level classes.
- c. Captain James “Craig” Bench, who will serve as our Commandant of Cadets this year (in charge of leadership labs and overall cadet training) and will teach our junior-level class.
- d. Technical Sergeant Hattie Douglas, who will again serve as our Personnel Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO).
- e. Technical Sergeant Therese Soliz Torres, who will begin her third year as our NCO for Information Management. Technical Sergeant Torres pinned on her new rank this past March.
- f. Ms Denise Smith, our secretary, who will begin her seventh year with the department this fall.

**4. Professional Development and Training Highlights:**

- a. Commissioning: This year (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007) we were privileged to commission a total of 13 new lieutenants. One was commissioned on July 7, 2006. One was commissioned on December 15, 2006. Another eleven were commissioned on May 11, 2007. Our speaker for the May ceremony was Colonel Timothy L Hale, Special Assistant to the Commanding General, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Florida.
- b. Pilot / navigator selection: again this year, we had great success in the selection rate for our cadets applying for pilot and navigator training. Six out of eight applicants (75%) were accepted for pilot training – well above the national average of roughly sixty percent. Both of our pilot “non-selects” were selected for navigator training, their second choice.
- c. Field training preparation: our junior and senior-level cadets again 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 Calvary Baptist church on Porter Road on March 3 and April 14, and a third day of exercises took place at our detachment offices in Memorial Hall on March 31. The result: as of July 16, one of our field training attendees has earned the honor of Distinguished Graduate; and two others, Superior Performer.

- 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Major Nicole Malachowski of the Thunderbirds and a Kurdish survivor of Saddam Hussein's chemical weapons genocidal attacks. The theme of this year's symposium was "All Created Equal – Human Dignity and Respect."
- e. Cyber Security Boot Camp: this summer one of our cadets was selected to attend the ten-week 2007 "Advanced Course in Engineering: Cyber Security Boot Camp" sponsored by the Air Force Research Laboratory, Information Directorate. Our cadet glimpsed some of the latest computer hacking techniques – and cutting-edge methods of foiling hackers. The class is designed to plant the seeds of productive, creative thought. It has certainly done so in the past and promises the same again this year.
- f. Other cadet educational travel: this summer we sent four 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, one of our seniors was selected to shadow officers in the Office of Special Investigations.
- g. Air show volunteers: For the second year in a row, cadre members took several cadets to Little Rock Air Force Base as volunteers at the base's air show. This year cadets made that trip on Friday, November 3, and returned late Saturday, November 4. The cadets assisted with logistics 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.
- h. Cadet-organized large-scale functions: one of our biggest practice tools for cadets learning to organize major events was (again this year) our spring dining-out (formal dinner/dance). Brigadier General Gregory Biscone, Commander of the 509<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing (Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri) served as the guest speaker. The event went well both as a cadet learning tool and as an Air Force community social highlight.
- i. Guest speakers for cadets: this past spring, we brought in the following guest lecturers for our cadets: Mrs. Barbara Westgate, Executive Director at the Air Force Material Command (March 8 leadership lab); a panel of Senior Non-Commissioned Officers from Little Rock Air Force Base (April 12 leadership lab); and a group of Company Grade Officers from Little Rock Air Force Base (April 19 leadership lab).
- j. Base visit: During the students' spring break in March, Major Murders took a small group of cadets on a multi-day tour of Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. In the words of one of our cadets, they "were able to see up close and personal the B-2 Stealth Bomber and the A-10 Warthog and one of the army

helicopters.” The cadets also had the opportunity to fly the B-2 simulator. Finally, the Civil Engineering Squadron demonstrated the use of a bomb suit. Our cadets found the base visit to be enriching and stimulating.

## **5. Community Service Highlights:**

- a. VA Hospital ceremonies: both in the fall and in the spring, cadre and cadets held active positions on the committee for the VA Hospital’s MIA/POW ceremonies. The fall ceremony was held in conjunction with Veterans’ Day, and the spring ceremony took place April 16, 2007. During each ceremony our honor guard posted the colors and performed the POW-MIA table observance. During the spring ceremony, cadets presented former POWs with paper daisies lovingly made by preschool children at a local daycare center. (The daisy project was the creation of TSgt Torres.).
- b. Fundraiser for Achilles Freedom Team: on their own initiative, several cadets did the extensive legwork and planning to put together a “Hope and Possibility” 5K to raise funds for the “Achilles Freedom Team,” a division of the international Achilles Track Club. The Achilles Track Club encourages and enables people with all types of disabilities to become involved in running, and the Achilles Freedom Team focuses on wounded veterans. The Freedom Team provides newly wounded veterans with handcrank wheelchairs, prosthetics, physical training and support to convince them they can still accomplish great things. Many of the veterans Achilles Freedom Team helped are now running marathons. The Hope and Possibility 5K organized by our cadets took place at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) campus on April 14, 2007 and raised \$2,000 for this worthy endeavor.
- c. Valentines for Vets: the week of February 14 (which fell on a Wednesday this year), cadets and staff members visited the local veterans’ hospital in recognition of Valentines for Vets Day. Different cadets visited on each day and handed out Valentine greetings from local elementary school students.
- d. Honor guard: this year our honor guard posted the colors mainly at university football games, basketball games, and gymnastics meets. Most other community-related events (local grade-school assemblies, nursing-home gatherings, etc) occurred at times that conflicted with our students’ class schedules. Our honor guard members remain great ambassadors for the University of Arkansas and the Air Force, but school comes first.

**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.