

# THE GOLD RUSH

**Long Ranged  
Fighter, pg 2**

**New AAS  
members, pg 3**

**Re-enlistment,  
pg. 3**

**Cadets of the  
Month, pg 4**

## Purple Military Ball by: Randy Joseph

"...An evening to remember!"

On the evening of April 5th 2014, two great organizations will come together to celebrate a stupendous tradition. Members of AFROTC DET 592 and ARMY ROTC 49er Battalion will gather at the Charlotte Motor Speedway in festive spirits and pioneer "The Inaugural Purple Ball."

The scene, iconic to the city of Charlotte, will host smiles and laughter from active duty members of our military and cadets nearing the start of their careers in the services. The night has been planned to reflect the direction of joint initiatives carried out by the United States military. In all it's essence, the Purple Military ball will give way to an evening soon to be etched in the memories of all who attend.



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## USAF's Need For Long Range Fighter

by Randy Carey

The Allied strategic bombing campaign of World War II almost met a bitter end due to its lack of long-range fighter escorts. The early campaign, comprising primarily of B-17 Flying Fortresses, and B-24 Liberators, incurred extremely heavy losses. Only when the P-51 Mustang arrived on the scene did the tide change. The P-51 was not the first capable fighter the Americans produced and flew in the European theater. It was, however, the only plane with adequate fuel reserves to have the range to escort the American bombers all the way to their targets and back. Before the Mustang arrived our bombers were all but defenseless against swarms of the Luftwaffe. However, once we had a fighter that could go the distance, our bombers turned from sitting ducks to brilliant and strategic weapons platforms.

Like the European theater of World War II, American air supremacy is certainly not a given at this time in the Western Pacific. While it is true that all 182 F-22's, the world's premier air dominance fighter, are under PACAF (Pacific Air Forces) command, this force alone may not be enough to control such a vast area. Aside from the F-22 Raptor, the F-35 and the Navy's F-18EF, will be the weapons platforms most heavily relied on in the coming years in that theater. Yet both of these fighters are underpowered and would be much more likely to be defeated in close air combat with the comparable fighters in the region.

In this light it is clear that cutting the F-22 at 187 planes was strategically disadvantageous, however, the Air Force can use this opportunity to use the lessons learned in developing the F-22 and F-35 to produce an advanced version of the F-22 in larger numbers at a cheaper price.

Following these criteria would allow only a few hundred of these advanced fighters to ensure complete control over the skies of the Pacific Rim, thus filling the current gap. Such measures would be necessary for air supremacy in the region, a necessary criterion for any type of bombing or military campaign.

One of the primary concerns of both the small number of American fighters in the region and the large number of potential adversary fighters would be the ability of the adversaries to slip through the thin line of Americans and take out the support aircraft necessary to keep the machine running. These support aircraft are our mid-air refueling tankers and airborne early warning command-and-control systems. These old modified Boeing 707's are pigs; big and slow. In short, they are easy targets. Even if enemy fighters could only get off one or two lucky shots, we could potentially lose an entire flight of tactical aircraft needing the fuel reserves to get back to base alive.

Extending the combat radius of the new fighters would cause them to be less reliant on the old tankers. Currently the only bases that the F-22's could fly out of without tanker support in order to reach the mainland of East Asia, are in South Korea and Japan, but using these bases early in the war is out of the question because they are so vulnerable to the short range tactical missiles that the Chinese have produced in the thousands. Extending the range of our fighters would allow them to escort our bombers all the way to their targets and back from our numerous bases further east in the Pacific Ocean, thus ensuring both air supremacy and the ability to support any military operations in the region.

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***Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.***

***-Abraham Lincoln***

## **New Arnold Air Society Members!**

The Neil A. Armstrong Squadron has become a little bigger! On 14 March 2014, we inducted four new cadets into our society. Cadets Dudley, McSwain, Patel, and Stone went through six weeks of intense training and can now officially call themselves "Arnies." Now that the candidate class is over, they have the privilege of joining the other members in community service projects as well as attending our National Conclave (NATCON). Though this semester is coming to a close, we still have exciting events to look forward to as well as interacting with our new members!

By- SheVan Alston



Right after Spring Break, the cadets and Cadre at Det. 592 celebrated with our very own MSgt Patterson in her last re-enlistment. MSgt Patterson has served many years in the Air Force, and has been serving Det. 592 fervently for the past few years. We appreciate everything that she has done for the Air Force and our Detachment!

-Cathryn Krakie

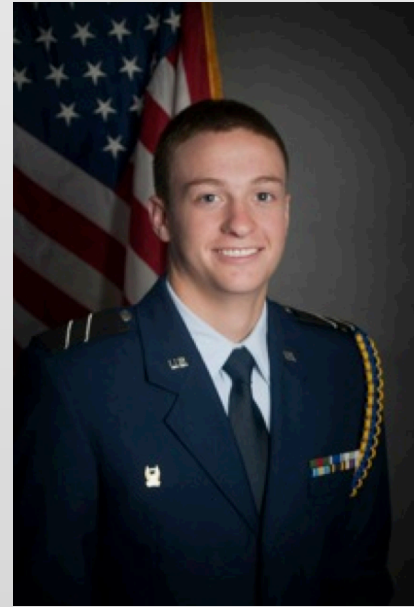
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## AS 100 CADET OF THE MONTH CADET HOOVER



- 1) My biggest fear is heights, even though I love roller coasters and flying.
- 2) Eventually, I would like to be a nurse in the Air Force.
- 3) My favorite color is blue!
- 4) My dream date would be with Brantley Gilbert.
- 5) A weird fact about me is I love doing crazy things, even though most of them are probably dangerous.

## AS 200 CADET OF THE MONTH CADET YELTON



- 1) My biggest fear is not achieving my dreams.
- 2) The job I want in the Air Force is to be a pilot.
- 3) My favorite color is Air Force Blue!
- 4) My dream date would be with Jennifer Lawrence because she seems so normal compared to any other celebrity.
- 5) A weird fact is that I know how to juggle and ride a unicycle at the same time.

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**Want to Write for The Gold Rush?**

**Ask C/Krakie for more information or email articles to**

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Mr. Pitillo and Ms. Grimm find a store with Mr. Tran's namesake while on Spring Break!