

THE GOLDRUSH

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DETACHMENT 592

AIR FORCE ROTC

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What's New?

Joseph Meehan, a fifth year cadet at our Detachment, is a mechanical engineering major who will be commissioning this May to go into the Cyber Operations career field. I asked him a few questions about the Detachment to see how it has been changing over the five years that he has been here and he had great things to say about what we are doing. He appreciates the formalities being taken out of Physical Training so that the cadets can just work out now instead of taking time to do drill movements. He says that this allows for a higher standard of physical training to be met. Another positive that he sees is that we are moving in a good direction at Detachment 592. Lately we have been questioning the way that things have been run for a long time and now we are streamlining many of our processes. Cadet Meehan says that this has allowed us as a Detachment to really begin to focus on leadership development and

individual growth within each cadet. Lastly, he likes how we have started to focus more on the growth of everyone at each level. Traditionally the freshman and sophomore years are thought of as the hardest years, but now the difficulty increases at each level. The first two years in AFROTC are focused on preparing for Field Training between the sophomore and junior years. Then for the upperclassmen, the junior and senior years are focused on further developing leadership skills. With the changing culture of our Detachment, there is no doubt that the last two years are the most challenging by far. All in all Cadet Meehan says that Detachment 592 has not lost its fire in the least bit. As he's leaving, he sees us as an establishment with heavy forward momentum, heightening morale, and truly developing quality leaders for the Air Force.



What's Next For The Seniors?

Senior year at any university is an exciting time. But for our seniors, graduation also means commissioning into the United States Air Force. They all received their duty assignments this semester, Spring 2017. Below are the names of each graduating senior and their future AFSCs.



Alexander, Joseph: Contracting Officer
Booker, Valen: Contracting Officer
Brenes, Anthony: Civil Engineering Officer
Clinard, Kasey: Civil Engineering Officer
Davis, Indiana: Space Operations Officer

Dry, Andrew: Cyber Operations Officer
Ebiner, Katherine: Intelligence Officer
Knight, Shane: Intelligence Officer
Meehan, Joseph: Cyber Operations Officer
Nigg, Cameron: Missile Officer

Field Training Acceptance

The Air Force is currently expanding which is good news for us here at Detachment 592 because that means a higher acceptance rate to summer training. This year the acceptance rate was 100 percent. This is outstanding news for our sophomores because they will all be one step closer to fulfilling their dreams of joining the world's greatest Air Force. This year summer training, LEAD, will be divided into two different FTUs. FTU 1 holding three sections of training and FTU 2 will hold four sections of training. LEAD will be 18 days long with nine days at Maxwell AFB for the "In Garrison" portion and 9 days at Camp Shelby for the "Field" portion. So, congratulations to all of the sophomores and good luck at training this summer!

New Arnold Air Society Members

"The Arnold Air Society candidate process was a challenge both mentally and physically. It tested my ability to work flawlessly under pressure, while also taking into account minute details. In the beginning, it was somewhat of a free-for-all and there was clearly a lack of communication between the individual candidates. But, by the end, the remaining candidates and I understood that looking out for our fellow wingmen would mean success for all. Beyond this, we thought



more in depth of why we were there and why it was crucial that we complete this candidate process. I continued not for myself, but for those around me and the idea of not letting them down. I felt as though I owed them my best because I knew that without them, I would not become a member of Arnold Air Society. The growth that the other new members and I experienced is unmeasurable. It challenged us to look beyond ourselves and eventually formed relationships that will last a lifetime. NEIL!"

–Cadet Canaan Birchett (Spring 2017 AAS Candidate Class)

Air Battle Manager Select

An exciting job selection that was given out this semester was an Air Battle Manager (ABM) slot. Here are a few words from the ABM select:

“Air battle manager (ABM) is a rated flying position in the United States Air Force. It has been a rated career field (Air Force Specialty Code 13BX) since October 1, 1999. It affects control of assigned forces, plans, organizes, and directs operations, including airspace management, directs aircraft conducting air defense and tactical missions, coalition integration, sensor system management, operations management activities, and data link operations. Most cadets starting the program want to be pilots, however, this has been my dream job since freshman year. I was extremely excited and thrilled to be selected for ABM as one of the 57 ROTC cadets in the nation during FY18 Rated Board.” -Cadet Huan Pham



Pilot Selects

This semester our Detachment had two pilot candidate selects; Cadet Coulter Pierce and Cadet Paul Fortier. Both cadets will go to Undergraduate Pilot Training once they graduate and commission.



“Finally being selected to be a Pilot is an incredible feeling. I’ve wanted to join the Air Force and be a Pilot since I was 15 and now that it has finally happened I am more excited than ever. The next steps I have before Undergraduate Pilot Training is pass all the flight physicals and graduate on time. I am pumped for my future in the world's greatest Air Force”

- Cadet Pierce



“Finding out that I am going to UPT brought me to tears. The fact that I was able share the moment with my good friend Pierce made it even sweeter. My dream is to fly fighters, so now I am one step closer to it. Some people think they are ugly but these flight suits look mighty fine on us two.”

-Cadet Fortier

Perspective From Our Staff

Ms. Cole Carter: Cole Carter has been working at UNC Charlotte for 16 years. She is our liaison between Detachment 592 and UNC Charlotte, which makes her vital to our operations. She helped us this semester to get some much-needed housekeeping done around the outside of our building. She was also pivotal in helping us prepare for our distinguished guest and UNCC alumni, General Gordy. She made sure the floors were spotless and waxed, all minor repairs were done, and the unexpected complication with our flagpole was fixed with time to spare. Many of these things often go unnoticed, but not this time Ms. Carter; we appreciate you.

A few words from her about the cadets: She thinks that out of her 16 years here at UNCC we are the most structured and regimented. The officers and cadet leadership are providing a great environment for the cadets to learn and develop as leaders. She is always shown the utmost respect around the Detachment, which she appreciates.

Mr. Thomas Clark: Mr. Clark has been at UNCC for 46 years. He first worked in the mail department and has been with us for 14 years now as our uniform coordinator. He always makes sure that Detachment 592 has plenty of sharp uniforms to go around when we need them. Budgets are tight, but he always has us taken care of. Cadets can often start helping out around the Detachment with the uniform closet. Mr. Clark helps these cadets get involved and start learning what it means to be part of AFROTC. He is always a smiling face to see in the Detachment and is always willing to talk. The uniform closet never seems that important until someone needs something due to a malfunction, misplaced cover, and going on a summer assignment. So on behalf of Detachment 592, thank you for all of your hard work, Mr. Clark.

A few words to the cadets from Mr. Clark: He loves where he works. We show him the utmost respect at all times. He said that where he used to work in the university does not compare to the Detachment. As cadets, he wants us to strive to be our best so the charge that he has for everyone is, “Reach Apogee.” This means never stop being the best you can be and never stop trying to be the best.





Our Cadet Wing Commander:

The Cadet Wing Commander is the senior-most position that a cadet can hold during their time in Air Force ROTC. Each Wing Commander prospect has to go through an interview process with a board consisting of all Cadre here at Detachment 592. They present their ideas for the semester and then have to talk about and defend them as well as answer any questions that the cadre might have.

This semester Cadet Shane Knight was the Detachment 592 Cadet Wing Commander. She was well qualified for the job, which was known from the beginning, but her true accomplishments of this semester lie a bit deeper. She was unusual to have this position because she was a cross-town cadet which meant that she was a full-time student at Queens University in Charlotte and a full-time cadet at UNCC. This presented a greater challenge to her due to commuting from another campus that most Cadet Wing Commanders do not have to face. On top of being physically distanced from the Cadet Wing, she was also a highly competitive collegiate swimmer at Queens University. This year she competed and won her third national D-3 title. It is safe to say that Detachment 592 was privileged to have her in command.

This was a great opportunity for her to lean on her Wing Staff when she could not attend certain events, like PT for example, because she was training. This also allowed her to exercise delegation to a fine degree and rely on her staff to report any and all issues. This challenged her to not only push her leadership skills, but also the skills of everyone on her staff because they would have to make decisions without her. The environment that she created this semester was highly conducive to leadership development.

On behalf of Detachment 592, we say great thanks and we wish you a great career in the United States Air Force!

Patriot Games

This semester, we had the opportunity to compete in the Patriot Games. This is an olympic-type competition between all of the Air Force ROTC Detachments in the state of North Carolina. In past years we have competed in similar competitions, but this year was different. Our Cadre allowed us to use time during PT, for those who were competing, to practice for the events that we would participate in. These events included football, soccer, and a few others. Cadet Clinard, the man who ran the show for Detachment 592, said that the practice times that we were allotted were pivotal in our success. We did not just have people showing up to an event and going at it like a pickup game. We were prepared. One underrated action by Cadet Clinard was that he made sure we had a uniform to go to the event with, bringing us even closer as a team. With only last minute notice, he made sure we were taken care of. The result was that we finished second overall!



The sophomores traditionally participate in a training exercise before they go off for summer training and this year they went on a one-day trip to Camp Butner in North Carolina. This is an opportunity for all of the sophomores to see different styles of training, march in different formations with different people, and they get to learn more about leadership. A big focus that one of our own LEAD Preparation trainers had for our cadets was decisiveness. He believes that this is one of the most important attributes to have. The sophomores got to participate in an obstacle course, work in teams on group leadership exercises, and do a land navigation exercise. The training they received this year will ultimately help them in their success at LEAD this summer.

FTPX



LEAD Preparation



Spring semester for AS200s and AS250s is known as the peak of their journey into becoming an officer. The viewpoint of LEAD Prep, formerly known as Field Training Preparation, was that once you have an enrollment allocation and come back from training you are welcomed into the life of ease that is the POC. This misconception is very dangerous for the future of the Air Force.

This summer's training is just the first of many major steps to become an effective officer. When the flight commanders and I set out to plan this semester, we wanted to ensure this LEAD Prep class was prepared for their summer training but also to realize that the fight to becoming a 2nd Lieutenant does not stop when they come back from LEAD. In years past, FTP classes have been taught drill, dining procedures, and everything else that will make them a contender at Field Training. However, there was a lack of emphasis on how what you learn translates into being an effective leader on a larger scale. The LEAD Prep staff and I have worked hard to turn every lesson into something the cadets can put away in their arsenal of leadership for later. Marching, for example; while we have always taught cadets to be proficient at drill and effectively travel from point A to point B, this semester they were also taught how drill can show us the importance of prior planning and using their resources. Every task that was taught at LEAD Prep was translated into big picture leadership skills in an effort to create cadets that are not only successful at LEAD but also better POC and, eventually, more effective 2nd Lieutenants. This style of training was slow to take off, it is difficult to teach large picture leadership skills when cadets are naturally just concerned about getting an enrollment allocation. As the semester progressed and the LEAD Prep cadets became more confident, they also became more receptive to these larger ideas. It came to the point where they were learning new information at a faster pace because they were using those previously learned lessons. It is our hope that this will translate over into the rest of their performance on their paths to becoming officers. The training staff and I would like to wish all of LEAD Prep good luck at their summer training, even though we know they will not need it. We look forward to having you back as POC."

-Cadet Miles Riddle, LEAD Prep Squadron Commander