

THE GOLDRUSH



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FEATURED: WELCOME LT COL PETERS!

In this edition of The GoldRush, Detachment 592 extends its warmest welcome to Lieutenant Colonel Bret Peters. With 28 years of service and counting, we are grateful to have him here. Get to know the newest addition to the 592 Family on page 15.

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Meet Our New Cadre

This past semester, Detachment 592 welcomed its newest cadre member. Prior to joining the detachment, Lieutenant Colonel Peters served 28 years in the North Carolina Air National Guard where he most recently served as a senior navigator aboard the C-130 with the 145th Airlift Wing. Lt Col Peters also worked for the Federal Air Marshal Service and the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Furthermore, Lt Col Peters has previously served with the North Carolina Department of Corrections and the North Carolina State Highway Patrol.

Since 2010, Lt Col Peters deployed multiple times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve, where he directly enabled the delivery of thousands of pounds of critical cargo and hundreds of combat



Then Major Peters receives his new ranks from Lieutenant Colonel Sanders

troops to austere locations with minimal ground support. Lt Col Peters was awarded the Aerial Achievement Medal for his actions during his most recent deployment.

Since his transfer to Detachment 592, Lt Col Peters has been instrumental in the instruction of junior level cadets and has given invaluable guidance to cadets working on large projects. Cadets O'Donnell and Pritchett had the opportunity to sit down with him and ask him a few questions about his career. To learn more about the new addition to our cadre, turn to page 15.

The Air Force Marathon

This semester, four cadre members, an alumnus, and seven cadets represented Detachment 592 in the 70th annual Air Force Marathon. Lt Col Sanders, Capt Evans, 2d Lt Meehan, Cadet Angel, Cadet Jordaan, Cadet Rainey, Cadet Swadener, and Cadet Zwiener completed the full marathon while Lieutenant Colonel Peters, Captain Hukka, Cadet O'Donnell, and Cadet VonCannon completed the half marathon.



Cadets and Cadre pose in front of the Air Force Museum

As an avid marathon runner, Cadet Zwiener initially planned on running the marathon with just one friend. However, using “positive peer pressure” she managed to convince several others to participate.



Cadets and Cadre before the race

To commemorate the Air Force’s 70th birthday a special flyover was performed by a P- 51 Mustang and an F-22 Raptor. This unique formation showcased some of the greatest fighters from the birth of the Air Force to today.

Detachment 592 was well represented with several cadets placing in the top five within their respective age groups. Cadet VonCannon blew the competition out of the water, finishing first in her age group with a half marathon time of 1:35:20. Cadet Zwiener and Cadet Jordaan finished the marathon second and fifth in their age groups, with times of 3:32:47 and 3:16:29 respectively.



Cadet Zwiener posing in the Air Force Museum the day before the race



Cadet Jordaan crossing the finish line



Cadet VonCannon after winning her age group

With the success we had this year, we look forward to having many more cadets participate next year.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Detachment 592 alumni Jay Stewart, Karen Patrick, JD Duvall, Johari Hemphill, and Pete Layden for sponsoring cadets for this event by covering transportation and food cost!

Arnold Air Society Commemorates 9/11

On September 11th, members of Arnold Air Society stood guard at the 9/11 Memorial on campus to honor those who lost their lives during the terrorist attack that took place 16 years ago. Starting at midnight, 18 cadets rotated 30-minute shifts for a full 24 hours. Two cadets stood guard at parade rest while one cadet stood by as an observer to field any questions passersby may have.

Lt Col Sanders made the following statement regarding the Arnold Air Society Vigil in an article posted to UNC-Charlotte's Exchange publication: "The cadets chose a particularly meaningful way to remember the lives lost in the tragic 9/11 attacks. I admire their tenacity and dedication to make a small sacrifice in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice that day."

Even though these cadets had classes and other priorities, they were committed to the vigil and honoring those who lost their lives on that fateful day. Additionally, storms from Hurricane Irma rained down throughout most of the day, but this had no effect on the dedication of these cadets. While this was the first year the squadron held this vigil, it is something they plan to continue in coming years.



Cadets Angel and Eng take their posts in the early hours of the morning

Warrior Niners Take on the Patriot Games

This year, on October 28th, Lt Col Peters and 25 cadets traveled to NC State to compete against other detachments from across the state of North Carolina. All North Carolina AFROTC detachments were represented including: UNC Chapel Hill, NC A&T, Fayetteville State University, Duke, Eastern Carolina University, and NC State.

Det. 592 competed in each event while winning the Tug-of-War competition. They added a second place in Ultimate Frisbee and a Third in both the Relay Race and the Simulated Dining In. Furthermore, they ended up in fifth place in Flag Football. Det. 592 took home third place overall, with intent to come back and win overall in Fall 2018.



The fearsome "Warrior Niners" competing at the Patriot Games

Honor Guard Spotlight

The Honor Guard Team is an extracurricular Air Force ROTC Team responsible for presenting the flag(s) in a variety of settings. The members of the Honor Guard team practice drill and ceremonies, proper wearing of the uniform, as well as the proper presentation of the colors.



Our Honor Guard at Det. 592 recently had the honor and privilege to present the colors at a few major sporting events here in Charlotte. This included, but is not limited to, the Xfinity

NASACAR Cup Series and the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series. These were nationally televised events, with millions of people tuning into ESPN to watch, and thousands other watching the race live from the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

The Honor Guard was also selected to present the colors at UNC Charlotte's Homecoming Football Game. This was a rare occasion, as four freshman presented the colors before the game. Cadet Lackey said, "As lead rifle, there were high expectations for me to perform well and march the Honor Guard into the correct positions. Because this was my first Honor Guard event, I felt a lot of pressure. I was honored to be a part of this event and to implement the standard set by Cadet Cho, our cadre and the U.S. Air Force.

I have a great feeling of pride for this ceremony and was satisfied with the overall performance of our Honor Guard in front of the homecoming crowd.”

Our detachment is very proud to be selected for these events, and we look forward to presenting the colors at future events.



Joint Army & Air Force Color Guard during the Military Appreciation Day Parade



The Color Guard at the 49er Classic Drill Competition

Cadet Spotlight: Cadet Robbie Quinlan

Cadet Quinlan is an AS300 cadet this year, also one of the detachment's Physical Fitness Officers. He is charged with keeping the cadet wing in top physical shape. This past semester he was selected to

attend Air Liaison Officer (ALO) Selection Week. Cadets O'Donnell and Pritchett interviewed cadet Quinlan about the ALO process and how other cadets can qualify to be one.



Cadet Quinlan leads an exercise during PT

What made you decide to pursue a career as an Air Liaison Officer?

I have always wanted to be as close to the fight as possible.

Physical fitness is something that has always been important to me, and something that I have always just been good at. I really wanted to pick a career that would allow me to use those talents in that area. The Air Liaison Officer career path just seemed like the best way to go about doing that.



The Cadet Wing participating in an outdoor PT session

What advice would you give to GMC cadets that are interested in attending this program in the future?

There's a lot that I would like to give but most importantly, it doesn't matter how physically fit you are, what matters is how you work with your team.

Nothing that we did there could have been achieved by an individual. Even if you were the superstar you would fail ten out of ten times. Also, expect for it to be a lot harder than you think it is, but don't quit. Lastly, don't rely just on your ROTC experiences to get you through it.



PT held at Charlotte Motor Speedway

What were your expectations going in to the program and how were they different from the reality of the program?

I thought it would be a lot less physically challenging. For example, in the three-page packet it gave me, it gave me a packing list and said I'd have a four-mile ruck with 45 pounds. This is something anyone should be able to do, but having it in the middle of the day after everything else we'd done and being up at 0200 made it the hardest thing that we did there.

Are there other careers that you are interested in pursuing other than an Air Liaison Officer?

I actually just decided that fighter pilot is going to be the primary career I pursue. Just from my perspective, it's the best time to go for a fighter pilot slot when they're down 1500 pilots. Not to mention they recruit ALOs from fighter pilots so hopefully, I'll be able to cross train into being an ALO somewhere down the line. I'm also applying to STO next year.



The Cadet Wing sprints up Craver Road during a campus run

AFSC Reveal: Seniors Get Their Jobs

Cadet Pham: Air Battle Manager (13B)

Cadet Clark: Missiles Officer (13N)

Cadet O'Neil: Missiles Officer (13N)

Cadet Craver: Missiles Officer (13N)

Cadet Rainey: Intelligence Officer (14N)

Cadet Rotimi: Intelligence Officer (14N)

Cadet Bui: Cyberspace Operations (17D)

Cadet Blair: Logistics Readiness (21R)

Cadet Board: Acquisitions Manager (63A) and Aircraft Maintenance (21A)

Cadet Pierce: Pilot Trainee (92T)

Cadet Fortier: Pilot Trainee (92T)

It is worth noting that every cadet received one of their top three choices. Congratulations seniors!



Seniors pose with their AFSCs in hand

Combat Dining In

On November 30th, after our last Leadership Laboratory of the semester, the detachment had its annual Dining-In. While there were many traditions we kept, a lot of changes were made so it would more closely emulate an Active Duty Dining-In. A challenger's pit was added, so cadets could challenge each other, and face off in the pit with the loser heading to the grog. Certain times of Dining In were designated "hot" which gave cadets the opportunity to

unleash ammunition on other cadets. Finally, there was a



Cadet Eng and Cadet Rainey, the losers of the push-ups for pie competition, moments after being pied

push-ups for pie competition, where cadets could perform push-ups to vote for a Flight Commander and/or a member of wing staff to be pied.

All-in-all, this was a great opportunity for the detachment to come together and build camaraderie with each other in an atmosphere of good competition and fellowship.



Cadet Rainey and Cadet Luttrell preparing to spar in the challengers pit

Lieutenant Colonel Peters Interview

What made you decide to come to Detachment 592 and become a member of our cadre?

I've been a C-130 Navigator for the Air National Guard for the last 13 years. The North Carolina Air National Guard is transitioning from C-130s to C-17s, so my job on a C-17 would be going away since they don't have Navigators. So about a year ago, I started looking for other opportunities to see what was going to be the next step in my career. That is when I heard about AFROTC. As I started looking around for opportunities, I saw a spot at UNC-Charlotte open. My wife and daughter are both alumni, with my daughter recently graduating back in May. I even worked here as a police officer for a very short time back in '95.

With that being said, I obviously know a lot about the university and the surrounding area.

Furthermore, when I was in high school, I attended Oak Ridge Military Academy. This had a huge impact on my life as it got me much more focused on the direction I wanted and needed to go. I know how significant an impact the Colonel and the JROTC instructors that were there had on me and I was hoping to return that same positive impact and influence on some of the cadets in my life.



Lieutenant Colonel Peters is congratulated by the Cadet Wing and his family

How has the transition from the Air National Guard to a member of the Cadre here been so far?

It's been excellent. The cadre, the cadet corps, and the faculty have been very welcoming and very patient with me because it is very different from what I was doing previously. Learning the AFROTC-isms has been interesting, to say the least.

Overall, it's been a bit of a challenge, but we're getting there. As with any new job, getting that foundation under you and learning the fundamentals of what you're supposed to be doing can be a challenge.

What jobs have you had in the Air Force?

I think I've held 5 AFSCs. I started my career in 1989 as a Crew Chief on Hueys and Blackhawks in the Army National Guard in Salisbury. I was there until 1995 when I went over to the Air National Guard in Charlotte to join Security Forces, which was Security Police at the time. This was good for me because in my civilian career I was a Law Enforcement Officer so I wanted to get my military career commensurate so I could

continue to build my resume and improve as a Law Enforcement Officer. I worked in Security Forces at the base until 1999 when I had a Colonel approach me about going to Officer Training School. When I got my commission, I came back as the Group Executive Officer. This meant I was working directly for the O-6. This gave me a lot of Group level experience - which is extremely rare for a 2nd Lieutenant.

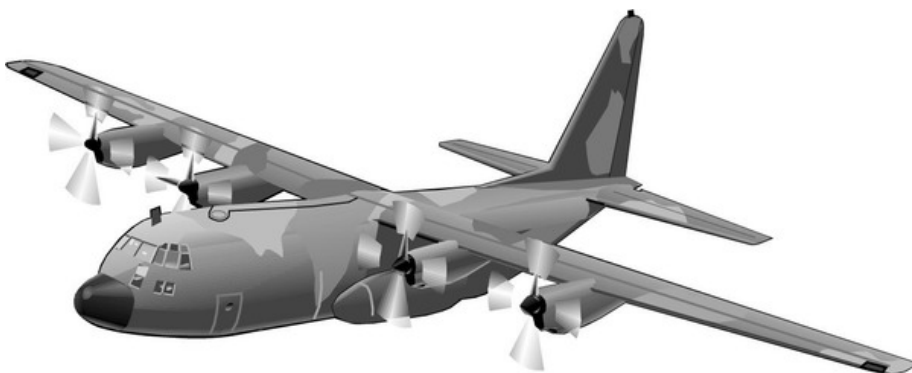
Then 9/11 happened and I had the opportunity to go to Raleigh and work for the Adjutant General on Joint Task Force Noble Hawk. This was part of Joint Task Force Noble Eagle, which was the Air Force Security Program. This was the first time in our nation's history where we deployed armed National Guard troops to our airports for security. Now it's a common thing if you go to some of the major airports like New York City or Los Angeles. But at the time it was all brand new. There were a lot of concerns popping up in the media about whether we



Lieutenant Colonel Peters administering the Oath of Office to his daughter via video call

had the authority to do what we were doing. In Raleigh, I was working as the Public Affairs Officer so I was able to work with the Adjutant General frequently. This gave me a good exposure to see the strategic picture and how things play out.

In 2004, the Colonel I was working for recognized I was doing a good job and said "Hey Bret, how come you're not rated?"



and I said, "well sir, I've never had the opportunity and I've always wanted to." He said, "well come see me at drill" and then I went to Navigator school and became a C-130 Navigator. That was the last 13 years flying the C-130, and now I'm here on my next adventure.

What were your day-to-day tasks like as a Navigator?

It all depends on what the mission for the day was. Some days were devoted to mission planning while other days were devoted to flying. The missions would depend on if I was domestic or deployed. When I was domestic, I flew a lot of airlift missions within the United States. So I'd report a couple of hours before my flight, and do the mission planning. Once the mission planning was done, I'd fly somewhere and pick up personnel and/or equipment, then fly somewhere to drop them off. Typically, I would do this a couple of days before coming home. Normally what I would deal with is called Joint Airborne Air Transportability Training (JAATTS), which is essentially going somewhere, picking up army troops and dropping them on a drop zone at a number of different drop zones on the east coast. Very rarely were these drop zones on the west coast.

I would usually do my mission planning either the morning of or the day before, but something would always change. Whether it's the type of chute, the personnel I am dropping, or the type of equipment I am dropping. I would always have to look it up and respin my CARPs and re-plan the actual air drop. This can be difficult on the fly so I'd have to know what I'm doing. In a deployed environment I typically had a planning cell who did most of the planning for me. But, at times, that would change very quickly, especially since I was in a combat environment. In a combat environment, the Navigator is responsible for the defensive systems on the aircraft. So when I was in the window with the switch, I had to know that all of the systems were in the right settings and ready to go to defend the aircraft if we were engaged by the enemy.