

# AFROTC DETACHMENT 027

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# THE EAGLE

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

## Field Training Experiences

### Cadet Bõxé



At Maxwell, we wrote a memorandum for a fruit box so we could have something to eat before bed. Our FTO agreed under the stipulation

that we decorate it. One shirt and a pair of socks later, Cadet Bõxé was born. We pinned one of his “arms” up into a permanent salute. We had to add him to our accountability, and we also had to report to him every night to get our fruit. In addition our CTA decided to voice

him with the highest feminine voice possible to break everyone's bearing. Eventually it got to the point where we would have to exchange Form 341's for laughing in order to get our fruit.

By: C/Captain John McGrady

### Terrible Service

I was sitting in the DFAC (Dining Facility) next to a flight mate when he realized that he had grabbed a Nutter Butter instead of an oatmeal cookie. He raised his hand and asked a CTA if he could get up and get a new cookie. The CTA told him no but this cadet persisted, so he asked the CTA to get the cookie for him. He then got chewed out and was informed that the CTA's aren't waiters. Another cadet in my flight, being a good wingman, gave the cadet his cookie and got a 341 for excellence.

By: C/Captain Aaron DeLuca

### Who's in Charge Here?

I was squadron physical fitness officer and we were all doing our squadron PT that I had created. We had one more set of push-ups to do and right as I was about to call the command for the next exercise, the squadron commander cut me off and started telling the flight commanders to fall in their flights and out of nowhere, I became louder than I have ever been in my life and said "Cadet Lewis! I am not done yet!" I was under the impression that during PT time, the PFO was the one in charge until he/she calls the squadron commander back up to take control of the squadron. After seeing the look of pure shock on my

fellow squadron members faces, I was very quickly informed by my FTO as to how wrong I was. You really do learn something new every day!

C/Captain Meagan Townsend

### **Your Point is Moot, Go Recruit!**

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit” (Aristotle). The Air Force wants excellent people to be officers; that means that the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program must provide excellent candidates. There are those who seek out excellence and there are those who have the opportunity to be excellent handed to them. That is what we do as a recruiting team. We bring students the opportunity to be excellent.

I attend recruiting events because I love sharing the opportunity of AFROTC with others. I think that having the ability to recruit is an invaluable asset to me a person, and the military as an organization. Attending recruiting events not only allows you to gain knowledge of the program, but also to work on professionalism as a skill. By accomplishing these things, not only are you improving yourself, but you are also promoting an organization that strives to better those involved.

Our goal at recruiting events is to show interested students the opportunities they will have in ROTC. Not only do we discuss the academic commitments and standards but we also discuss the projected timeline and commissioning commitments. Many students ask questions regarding classes and time

commitments and service owed after commissioning. Our job is to answer those questions to the best of our ability while tying in personal experiences, in order to draw their interest and encourage them to discuss, research, and find out more.

Why should you, a busy college student, take time out of your schedule for this? There are a multitude of reasons; the aforementioned betterment of self, and promotion of the program, as well as countless more. The cadre notice.

When you sign up for a recruiting event not only do the cadre view the list, but one of the cadre members will be on site at the table with you as well.

Furthermore, by wearing your uniform to the event you are able to become more comfortable in it and become more aware of the standards and regulations that you must keep in mind. Another reason you should sign up for a recruiting event is that you have a chance to bond with cadets that you may not necessarily interact with otherwise; you have the duration of the event to hear their experience thus far, and you have the trip to and from the location of the recruiting event to talk to them personally. As you consider the opportunity to contribute to a recruiting event consider this quote: “You cannot push anyone up the ladder unless he is willing to climb”, are you willing to climb?

By: C/3C Tina Meehan-Vernon

## 9/11 Memorial

The World Trade Center consisted of two towers and had 110 stories in each building both holding about 35,000 people and 430 companies. They were icons to the world and attracted nearly 70,000 tourists and commuters every day.



It was just like any morning to countless Americans on September 11, 2001 but when the time struck 8:46 AM and every single American's life was altered from that point forward. American Airlines Flight 11 crashed through floors 93 to 99 of the North Tower and then at 9:03 United Flight 175 struck into floors 75 to 85 of the South Tower. It was not over, at 9:37 AM Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon and at 10:03 United Flight 93 crashed into an empty field in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Flight 93 was believed to be intended to crash into the Capital Building but passengers on board were determined to not let this happen and fought to retake the aircraft. All Americans were affected by this terrorist attack. We as a Nation, became a united force determined to make sure that those who were responsible were found and brought to justice under our terms!

It has been 15 years since we lost 3,042 lives on that fateful day and Air Force ROTC Detachment 027 was determined to make sure they took the time to remember and reflect. On



Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> the cadets and cadre members went out on a silent memorial run. You could see the steam coming from the top of the group as they ran on the urban trail in silence, as a unit, together, leaving no one behind. There was nothing else on their mind other than to reflect on why they want to be in the armed forces, why they put on the uniform, and most importantly why they chose this path for themselves. The answers would all vary but they all had one important thing in common. They loved their country and wanted to be sure nothing like what happened on September 11<sup>th</sup> would ever happen again.

Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> there were a total of 76 cadets and 4 active duty officers all a part of the Detachment that woke up early to reflect again. Cadet Martin and Cadet Soza were up and organizing things at 0400 to ensure that all the logistics for the day were set and ready for the cadets' arrival at 0500. Silver Wings, composed of civilians and cadets, worked at the NAU Sky Dome at 0530 to ensure every single picture of those lost in the Twin Towers were placed on a seat for the participants to see and remember as they climbed for 2,071 steps. The Color Guard team led by Cadet Conn was at the event almost an hour prior ensuring our Nations colors were given the proper respect. The

Highlanders climbed a total of 165,680 steps in honor of those stairs climbed on September 11<sup>th</sup> by hundreds of first responders.



JP Vicente and the 100 Club of Arizona put on a phenomenal event throughout Tucson, Phoenix and Flagstaff for our great state. We will never forget all those who were

lost. We will always stand tall. We will always fly our flag. We are Americans and this is our country. God Bless the United States of America. Our heroes are never forgotten. Lest we forget!

**Sources:**

<http://www.100club.org/web/Online>

<https://www.911memorial.org>

<http://911towerchallenge.org>

<http://tcotrel.tripod.com/911deadlistalpha.html>



By: C/Captain Stephaney Soza

## **Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Ceremony**



This Thursday, September 15th, the cadets of Air Force ROTC Detachment 027 put on their annual Prisoner of War, Missing in Action Ceremony. The hour long event honored those who have been captured in the line of duty as well as those who never came home and were never

found. The event was attended by several distinguished visitors, including several heads of various military and veterans organizations. It also included speeches by NAU professor Dr. Robert Clark, who has had a distinguished and honorable military career, as well as flagstaff Mayor, Jerry Nabours.

The event was solemn, a moment to remember those who went to war and faced horrors that many people could never imagine. Adding to the



solemn air was the flag, which was raised to half-mast to

honor former Arizona Governor Rose Mofford, who had passed away earlier that day.

The event concluded with two cadets standing guard over the flag, keeping vigil for 24 hours, in order to honor and remember our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. From



Six o'clock pm on Thursday to Six Thirty pm Friday, the Air Force Cadets kept solemn watch, giving a little of their time to stand in solidarity for those who gave all.

By: C/Captain John McGrady

### **Luke Mudder**

Splitting the small concrete pavilion into three separate territories, the cadets and cadre from NAU's Det 027, ASU's Det 025, and Embry Riddle's Det 028 crowded amongst themselves, excited for the event about to unfold. After the



initial briefs, and a quick safety rundown, we were split into our respective "A" and "B" teams and were given our start times.

After reviewing our warrior knowledge and flipping through the Airman's Manual trying to pick up last minute snippets of information, we were all lined up at the starting line.

"Ready....begin!"



With the hot Phoenix sun beating down on us, we frantically raced to complete our 25 pushups, getting up and waiting for the others after we had finished. Once the

entire team finished we turned around and started the course. Running from obstacle to obstacle, we were each tested in our ability to judge the situation and come up with a timely solution to the problem. We developed a buddy carry system to transport two 170lbs dummies from a simulated crash site, and then we correctly identified multiple unexploded ordinances.

Halfway through the course we faced our first major physical challenge. While crossing a log over a ditch of deep mud, we were all sprayed with water cannons, weighing us all down



greatly in our boots, especially those of us in ABU's. As we made it over and proceeded up the hill, the added weight and fatigue from the previous running hit us all hard.

Although the water had been our enemy during the run, it served as a cool relief from the scorching sun as we low crawled into mud a foot deep under canvas netting. Dragging ourselves out of the thick mud and weighed down even more than before, we pushed each



other and ourselves to complete the last bit to the finish line. Another dip through waist deep mud under a fence and a final push through a 50 foot trench of mud, we all gritted our teeth against the water cannons and finished the race with a full-hearted Airman's Creed. Coming in a close 2nd place just

mere seconds behind Embry Riddle, we celebrated with a fresh change of dry clothes and by stuffing ourselves with delicious pizza.

By: C/3C Alex Dunn

### **Walk To School Day**

Over the years, walking to school has been less and less of a norm. Most students are driven to school, whether it be by car or by bus. This creates many problems for our environment and the safety of walking to school.



Communities are also less safe for walking because of traffic. National Walk to School day helps raise this awareness.

On National Walk to School Day, we prepped the pathway to the school by posting positive signs and balloons along the sides for the elementary students to

see. They included messages about staying active and keeping the environment clean. I was part of the chalk team. We drew pictures and wrote positive sayings all along the pathway.

After preparation, we gathered the kids and walked them along the path we had prepared. They loved the drawings and the signs. I even talked with a few of them while we walked and had some interesting conversations.

We were pretty hungry afterward and we were able to get incredibly delicious breakfast at Wildflower. The service



was awesome. We got to socialize some more before heading back to class. I loved this experience because it allowed me to get to know and work with other cadets. I also was able to unleash my creative side. I felt like a kid again while scribbling on the sidewalk, making kitty faces, emojis, rainbows, and hearts. Helping out and being a part of all of this was amazing. It was really fun and definitely something I would do again.

By: C/4C Sedona Bulle

### **Cadre's Corner**

To explain Cadre's Corner a little more, it will be a new reoccurring section in the Eagle that will allow the Cadre to give advice to the wing, express how the wing as a whole can improve, and talk about anything that you, the cadets, want to hear. This first edition of Cadre's Corner will be a brief description of each Cadre member including their education, past assignments, and awards; this is especially important because Detachment 027 has some new faces.

### **Lieutenant Colonel William Pruitt**



Lt Col Pruitt received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science through Louisiana Tech University, Louisiana. Later in his Air Force

career he attended Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, Army Command and General Staff College, and Air War College. He would also receive his Master of Arts in National Security Affairs-Southeast Asia, through the Naval Postgraduate School, California. Lt Col Pruitt was assigned to many different places including Goodfellow AFB, Texas, Kelly AFB, Texas, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, Andersen AFB, Guam, Osan AB, Republic of Korea, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, Ramstein AB, Germany, Patrick AFB, Florida, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, and then finally Northern Arizona University. Lt Col Pruitt also received a number of awards and decorations throughout his Air Force Career: Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Iraqi Campaign Medal with One Device, and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with One Device.

### **Captain Joel Bischoff**



Capt Joel Bischoff received his Bachelor of Science in Biology through Montana State University, Montana and also attended Squadron Officers School. His past assignments include Operations Officer

with the 75<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron at Hill AFB, Utah before he was assigned to Northern Arizona University. Capt Bischoff received the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

**First Lieutenant Alison Gonzalez**



1<sup>st</sup> Lt Gonzalez received her Bachelor of Arts through San Diego State University, California and later attended USAF Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Her past assignments include Goodfellow AFB, Texas and RAF Menwith Hill, United Kingdom. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gonzalez received the Joint Service Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

**First Lieutenant Kathleen Hunker**



1<sup>st</sup> Lt Hunker received her Bachelor of Science in Operations Research through the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado then her Masters of Science in Industrial Engineering through New Mexico State University, New Mexico. Her past assignments include Eglin AFB, Florida and Hurlburt Field, Florida. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Hunker was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, National Defense Service Medal, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

### **Staff Sergeant Justin Gooch**



Before coming to Northern Arizona University, Ssgt Gooch attended Airman Leadership School. His past assignments include Seymour Johnson AFB, South Carolina. Ssgt Gooch was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Oak Leaf

Cluster, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, and National Defense Service Medal.

If you would like to hear about specific topics in the Cadre's Corner, such as "What is Air Force life like?" or "What was it like at X Air Force Base?" contact C/3C David Zeltins at [dez9@nau.edu](mailto:dez9@nau.edu) or at (480) 404-0391.

By: C/3C David Zeltins

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- 3) Provides more opportunities for Air Force officer candidates to exercise leadership, management, organizational, and public relations skills.  
(AAS Objective)

**Week Zero will take place on Friday (Sept 9) at 1930 (7:30) in the detachment classroom!**

If interested contact: C/Berggren  
[etb58@nau.edu](mailto:etb58@nau.edu)

*"The warrior who cultivates his mind polishes his arms"  
-Duc de Boufflers*

## **Job Opportunities**

For anyone looking for a job outside of AFROTC and NAU, Sears (located at the Flagstaff Mall) is hiring. They are looking mostly for Back Room Associates, Footwear Sales Associates, Tools Sales Associates, and Cashiers. To apply to these jobs go to [www.sears.com](http://www.sears.com) and at the bottom of the page you will find a tab called Careers. Click the Careers tab and find the Flagstaff location. Once you have applied let C/3C Zeltins know at [dez9@nau.edu](mailto:dez9@nau.edu) or (480) 404-0391. He will let Management know you have applied and they will place you at the front of the line to be reviewed and interviewed.

By: C/3C David Zeltins