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By:
C/Drachman

Some Insight about OTS: Words By: 1st Lt Gonzales

What is taught in OTS that isn't taught in ROTC, but would still be helpful for active duty?

I've thought about it and the curriculum is exactly the same. Everything I learned at OTS is taught to cadets in ROTC.

What are some benefits from OTC that an ROTC officer/cadet might not have?

You spend more time without a break in between dealing with abrasiveness. I feel this helps people develop thick skin very quickly. But I think this may also have a lot to do with your personality type. Also, when you are in OTS, you can focus 100% on OTS. There are no college classes/AAS/SW/part-time or full-time jobs/anything else competing for your attention. OTS is stressful, but you don't have the added stress of college and juggling life's struggles.

What are some of the major differences between ROTC and OTS?

The selection process for OTS is EXTREMELY competitive. The first selection board I was on, they only selected the top 6% of 800-something applicants. I was in the top 7%. The next board, they selected the top 10% of 800-something applicants and I made it because I was still in the top 7%. So the caliber of people surrounding you at OTS is very high, and it gives you extra motivation to do your best and do it better than

everyone else. (It also helps to have that sort of Type-A personality for sure, which I think the majority of AF officers possess anyways, but I digress...) Your GPA and AFOQT scores have to be the best of the best already. You also have to pass a mock PFA before you even get selected for OTS. And you have to demonstrate you already have leadership skills to the selection board in order for them to select you. OTS is about refining the leadership skills you already have. So you have to be the cream of the crop on all levels to even get accepted. ROTC is a little different. It is a constant weeding out process through the entire program for many different things, which can be quite frustrating for many different reasons to many different people.

Is there a higher sense of camaraderie? Have you kept in contact at all?

Because we all “went through the suck” together, we became a lot closer, and got over the storming phase a lot faster. I still talk to them, in fact, my fellow graduates and I will all be pinning on Captain come October.

Which is harder?

OTS is definitely harder, absolutely. There were some prior enlisted who knew a little what they were doing, but most of us had to learn from scratch. It’s more like tech training than ROTC.

Which one prepares you better for Active Duty?

ROTC prepares you more because there’s more time for leadership practice, volunteering, being in different flights, and having different positions within the flights.

What’s your favorite memory from Officer Training School?

There was a run about halfway through OTS to a giant statue of a prop and wings, and once you make it there, it signals the halfway point of OTS, and there’s a little ceremony where you renew your commitment to OTS completion.

If you could do it all over again, would you enter the Air Force through ROTC or OTS?

ROTC definitely, hands down, because you so much more time to prepare and get that leadership experience.

Why would someone choose OTS over ROTC?

Really only if they too much academic credit to go through another four years of college, or if someone is interested in a field like nursing.

What do you want to do after your time at Det 027?

I like teaching so much, I'm torn whether or not to stay on active duty or get my Master's and PhD to become a professor.

If you could pick any superpower, what would it be?

Time Manipulation. Do you know how much time, anguish and embarrassment that could save? And I could make the best of times last forever.

What's your favorite quote?

I bet you were hoping for some famous quote about leadership. That is not the case. My favorite quote sums up the story of my life in its entirety so far:

"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view...where something strange and more beautiful and more full of wonder than your deepest dreams waits for you—beyond that next turning of the canyon walls."

Ins and Outs for a Somewhat More Enjoyable Experience

As all of the POC already know, Field Training will be the greatest, most rewarding experience of your life. What many of the 200s don't expect is how uncomfortable and awful this experience can be if you don't take care of yourself. There are tips that make your life there somewhat easier such as wearing PT socks under your ABU socks, or finding the drawer of rolls at the DFAC to load up on carbs. Either way, it is important to just embrace the suck and make the best of it because there is so much you will learn and appreciate after it is all over. A few Cadets on the FTP Staff including two Cadets who just went and passed with flying colors, and a Cadet who went, passed, and decided to go back and take part in the training of Cadets, have taken the time to list some items that they found useful to make their experience a little less uncomfortable. Here's what they had to say!:

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Gonzales:

- Duct tape- it works really well covering up incoming blisters
- Gold Bond medicated powder (green bottle)
- Sun screen stick (easy to put on cheeks, lips and ears)

Cadet Major Soza:

- Cough Drops - The dreadful cold, sore throats and loss of voice at JFTC are notorious for all cadets. Often sick call will offer cough drops BUT when the whole encampment of

cadets, CTA's, FTO's and the rest of staff want them, the supply will run out. They will say no to handing out cough drops because they only get shipments in every few days.

- Baby Lotion (small bottle) - The mosquitos will not only avoid you, but it is really useful when fellow cadets get rashes from their uniforms or when they get sunburnt. I had a flight mate burn his hand on blacktop road during PT at Maxwell and he used the baby lotion to help soothe the blisters and skin that was burnt.
- Extra Uniform Items - The male laundry for my FLT and my sister FLT got all messed up and often they would not get their laundry and run out of PT shirts, PT shorts and ABU shirts. I was able to spare my clothes to them so that they could have clean stuff to wear and not suffer smelling all day or putting on dirty laundry.

Cadet Major Light

- Extra PT Uniforms - It's better to have too much than not enough. The laundry situation is terrible at Maxwell and it could be a while before you're able to clean your PT's.
- A laundry machine - Haha just kidding... Not really.
- Duct Tape - Great for blisters, needed for hydration units.
- Pens - Sounds crazy... but they get lost and they are needed everywhere.

Det Dog of the Month- Kona

For: Cadet Johnson

How old is Kona?

4 Months!

What breed is she?

Springer Spaniel and Border Collie Mix

Does Kona have any interesting habits?

She loves to chew on anything and everything. Her favorites include chargers and Clark's face and heels.

What is her doggy schedule like?

Kona wakes me up promptly at 0500 on weekday mornings and 0700 on weekend mornings in order for her to be taken out. Then she runs around like a tazmanian devil for about an hour until I have to go to class. Her daily activities usually are long strenuous naps and decimating every toy that she has. When I come home she is crazy hyper for another couple of hours and then puts herself to bed.

What kind of food does she eat?

She only eats Simply Nourished puppy food and her favorite flavor is sweet potato and salmon. No people food for this little one.



How hard is it for you, being in college, to take care of her?

It was a little difficult at first because I used to go straight from school to work. Now I make sure to always keep her in mind when making my weekly schedule. A puppy is very demanding but not impossible if you want one bad enough.

Does she get along with other dogs at the Detachment?

Kona loves other dogs and gets along with them very well. She always tries to get them to play with her.

What is her favorite activity to do (play fetch, play in the snow, swim, ect.)?

She is just learning how to play fetch and it getting very good at it. However, I think her favorite activity is just running. She loves running in circles like she is herding me.

Please explain the relationship she has with Clark.

Clark is her big brother. They are best friends and play together on a daily basis. Though, like every little sister does, she annoys the hell out of him sometimes.

Reflections of Field Training Preparation

As the Semester comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on Field Training Preparation and how different this semester was compared to my first three semesters. I would like to take some time and dedicate this article to show some of what goes on behind the scenes in FTP and also explain some of the things other cadets might see from the outside looking in.

The first and most noticeable would be the yelling, what many cadets outside of FTP see is members of staff yelling at us for making mistakes and for not knowing our warrior knowledge, however, what many cadets don't see is what goes on in the other gym. As a general rule, you won't get yelled at if you don't mess up. In a way, the yelling, just like everything else in FTP is designed to encourage cadets to learn lessons and warrior knowledge in a stressful environment and also to toughen up cadets mentally for when we attend Field Training this summer. Also, many lessons are taught in different ways outside of yelling and it's not unusual for the staff even be nice to us.

Secondly, there is the increased emphasis on Drill and Ceremonies. The first three semesters were relaxed when it came to D&C, but with FTP, every single thing you do must be perfect. Marching, standardization, reveille and retreat, squadron concepts, and proper verbiage are expected to be perfect at all times. Whereas in IMT, standardization is something that is encouraged but generally glossed over; in FTP it is inspected thoroughly and if it is deficient, we are to start over again.

Thirdly, and finally, is the sense of both wingmanship and the isolation that can be felt during FTP semester. During FTP the wingmanship concept is stressed heavily, you don't leave your wingmen out to dry and the semester is a collective effort by the cadets, pulling each other up, finding interesting ways to get around the rules imposed by staff, covering for our wingmen if they make a mistake, and motivating ourselves silently in situations where we aren't allowed to cheer or speak. However, there was often a sense of isolation as well. While you know the inner details of your squadron mates' lives, you often don't know what is happening in the other squadron, not to mention the IMT flights. I noticed that throughout the semester, I had literally no idea what was going on with the IMT, it was a very different environment than the one I had grown used to.

All in all, this last semester has been very challenging and very rewarding for us FTP cadets. The environment is almost always "locked on" and the expectations are set to a high standard of performance. The semester seemed to both drag on endlessly and yet at the same time it is almost over. Ultimately, the experience was a unique one that I believe is well worth the time and effort and was rewarding for those who made it to the end. To all the 200's I say good job and good luck this summer, and to all the 100's, I hope you decide to stick with ROTC and go through the program, as it is one of the most rewarding endeavors you can undertake in college, if not life.

Written by: C/Baker

Saying Goodbye to MSgt Mallory

What is your job in the Air Force?

“Administration”

What has been the highlight of working in the Air Force?

“Having the opportunity to mentor and mold future leaders for the Air Force.”

What is your plan after you retire?

“I will be attending the University of Kentucky full time in August to finish my masters and figure out what I want to be when I grow up. I have a year and a half left.”

What have you enjoyed most about being a Cadre member at DET 027?

“Getting to watch cadets transfer from freshmen to Commissioned Officers who are finally ready to lead in the Air Force.”

What class (100s, 200s, Ect.) has been your favorite to mentor and why?

“The current 400s. They were sophomores when I started working in this detachment and I have had the opportunity to watch them grow to become 400 leaders.”

Do you have any pets?

“Yes I have 3 cats; Salem, Lily, and Cash. Cash is my cat but I’m really a dog person. I’m actually allergic to cats so we will see how that goes when I go home.”



What will you miss most about being at DET 027?

“Being MSgt Mallory”

Who is your favorite superhero, and what would your superpower be?

“I actually like supervillains more, but my favorite is Lex Luthor. If I could have a superpower, it would be mind manipulation so that I could get people to do what I want.”

Who has been your most inspirational mentor in your Air Force career?

“Captain Joel Bischoff”

One piece of advice for us (hopefully) future Air Force leaders?

“Learn how to conform to Air Force standards without changing who you are as a person.”

Alot of cadets say that when they first meet you, they are scared of you. Why do you think this is?

“It comes from my no whining attitude. However, getting to a more personal note, I have epilepsy and when I have a seizure, I still put my boots on and come to work. I have no sympathy for cadets who come into my office complaining that they don’t feel good. I live for service before self, and expect results not excuses.”

One piece of advice for cadets attending Field Training this summer?

“Don’t be afraid to fail. Every mistake makes you a better leader as long as you learn from it. I have failed multiple times in my life, but it has molded me into the person I am today.”

Favorite quote:

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if your want to test a man’s character, give him power.”
-Abraham Lincoln

We Will Miss You MSgt Mallory!



Last Words Before You Go

From one POC to another future POC, here are some words of encouragement before you go off to Field Training. My number one advice for all of you, is to think of the bigger picture. Think about why you are there, the differences you want to make in the Air Force, and then take time to realize the reason your staff is there. I am not going to lie to you and say that this isn't a competition or that you won't always be faced with the challenge of having to rise above your peers, but while you are there take some time to humble yourself. You were selected for a reason and maybe it wasn't a significant one, but at this point the cards are in your hands.

Instead of fearing about getting sent home, take the time to realize that you have already been selected. Realize that the military is already investing their time and money into you. So, go there without the fear of going home. Go to field training with the desire to learn. Realize that the staff here will push you to your limits and you will fail, but failure is just another opportunity to grow. There is no point in training if you already have all the answers now is there?

Take this time to grow and make lifelong connections and embrace the fact that you are literally surrounded by so many great military minds. This is your chance to not only represent our detachment, but it is your chance to redefine yourself. Fear nothing and for once put all of your effort into serving your flight selflessly. Trust them, look out for them, and encourage them because while you are there, they are the only people who will understand what you are going through. You can do this and I personally cannot wait to see how much you all will grow from this experience.

Sincerely, Cadet Hicks



April Word Search

E	Q	G	R	A	D	U	A	T	I	O	N	R	E	J	F	E	M	K	E
Y	S	C	I	M	E	D	A	C	A	S	S	Q	D	H	K	E	E	W	N
W	Y	E	E	V	O	S	T	C	V	P	T	S	L	M	S	S	F	S	I
M	M	M	C	X	S	E	V	V	L	T	I	I	M	N	V	T	I	B	A
T	Q	O	S	N	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	H	L	H	A	B	L	O	T
T	M	V	D	E	E	E	D	N	E	C	Y	C	S	C	L	D	R	V	P
K	C	B	Z	E	C	G	N	L	X	V	W	H	T	R	N	P	O	G	A
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Z	D	H	M	S	M	S	U	V	D	N	E	K	T	P	J	F	S	Z	B
J	C	N	U	A	R	O	I	R	R	A	W	P	N	H	S	H	Q	R	H
T	J	S	O	Q	F	G	K	N	O	B	L	W	Z	X	L	I	X	A	A
Y	W	C	B	G	E	K	R	B	X	B	G	Z	S	F	G	F	N	O	F
O	Q	E	N	O	I	S	S	I	M	D	C	G	J	G	R	G	I	D	F

ACADEMICS	CAPTAIN	COMMISSION
FAMILY	FIELD	FREEDOM
GRADUATION	HONOR	INTEGRITY
INTELLIGENCE	LEADERSHIP	MISSION
PHYSICALFITNESS	RELAYFORLIFE	SERVICE
SPECIALFORCES	TACTICAL	TRAINING
WARRIOR		