

THE EAGLE

Northern Arizona University Detachment 027

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Cadre's Corner:

“One night I had the opportunity to knock down a general officer, after which, he bought me a beverage and we had a long discussion about leadership.”

Cadre's Corner - "Air Force Fun"

By Captain Fleshman

We all have our own reasons for joining the Air Force. Your motivation for staying in the Air Force, however, may (and usually does) change over time. One of the things that I have grown to love about the military is the camaraderie and Air Force traditions... they are fun, and they make serving unique to other professions. For example, crud. My first unit had a tradition of playing crud on Friday afternoons. It was a great time to gain insight and mentorship from participating senior officers. One night I had the opportunity to knock down a general officer, after which, he bought me a beverage and we had a long discussion about leadership. I also gained invaluable knowledge about Air Force life from my group commander (who never missed a crud match). He taught me about career opportunities, effective leadership techniques and talked with me about why he made some of the decisions he made. Another activity that I enjoyed was office pranks. In the picture below, myself and two other company grade officers took down a model F-15 from the building foyer where it was hung about 35 feet in the air (don't ask how we got it down) and hung it over that same group commander's desk. It sounds pretty trivial, but again, getting it down safely took about two hours. For local prank stories, just ask our resident expert on office tomfoolery, Ms. Patty, because she has some good ones. All of these "fun" things were actually very productive as they built unit cohesion. And all of these activities were accomplished after the mission was complete... this should go without say. I encourage all of you to keep up with traditions, and have some clean, safe and professional fun.

Caveats:

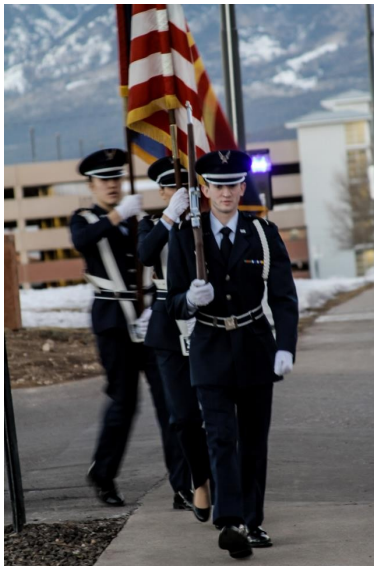
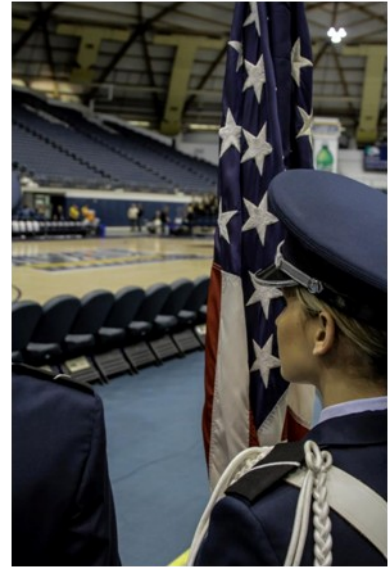
- 1) Don't knock down a GO unless you know that it is okay. I made note of how he was playing and mimicked his intensity.
- 2) Notice in the photo below that we had the squadron commander for "top cover" and we already knew the group commander was an approved target for our shenanigans from previous engagements.



Importance of the Flag

By C/4C Zoe Daughetry

The flag is the symbol of our country and if cadets neglect the flag they are neglecting the freedom, justice and equality that the American flag symbolizes. It is our duty to be the patriots we were born to be and to fight just as hard as our ancestors did. Many men and women gave their lives to make sure that the flag remained flying throughout the United States history. It is a privilege to raise and lower the nation's flag in honor of these men and women and the POW/MIA's who are missing or have died to protect our people and our country without thinking twice about themselves.



It is disrespectful of us to not want to raise the flag in their honor and demonstrate that some people back home have faith that they will return or that someone appreciates the sacrifices that they have made. As cadets, we have or are going to make a lifetime commitment to the armed forces and the duty of flag detail teaches diligence and responsibility. It is not only important that cadets respect the American flag, but get involved in the detachment. When entering Air Force ROTC, cadets are making a commitment to stand by their country and the first step to doing that is honoring and respecting the American flag. Flag detail offers U.S. citizens and other members of the armed forces a piece of mind and also honors all those that have served.

Sign up for Flag Detail!

Best Handshake

By Cadet Captain Kryder



What am I going to be when I grow up?

I awoke at 0300 on Thursday, 14 February (Valentine's Day), feeling feverish and hoping that the Air Force would feel romantic. Forget that I had a cold and couldn't sleep anyways. I was a mere seven hours away from finding out what I will be when I grow up. The nights I spent doing homework while my friends went out, the classes I took to improve my fit-

ness level, the yelling I endured while deep in Maxwell, the raised blood pressure I maintained during the TBAS, and all of the emails I sent to try and improve my standing in the cadres eyes were about to come to fruition. Or not. There would no longer be any grey area, and I felt that I would be on the wrong side of the fence.

I was utterly convinced that I would not fly for the United States Air Force. I was scared. I felt that I had underperformed myself enough to miss out by a fraction of a point on what would have been the career of my dreams: Flying a manned aircraft.

Naturally so, I was prepared to take whatever came to me. I simply dreamed of flying around the world, and meeting the people in it. The mission associated with the tactical airlift: OPERATION: Christmas Day humanitarian drops, medical transportation, and the travel appealed to me at a deep level. I couldn't think of anything else I would rather do with my time on God's Green Earth. These things that I've been dreaming about would either be upheld, or hopelessly dashed in an instant.

"I couldn't think of anything else I would rather do with my time on God's Green Earth. "

Best Handshake

By Cadet Captain Kryder

The morning was the worst part. I knew that we would find out at some point on V-Day, but I had no idea the hour. I sat in the house drinking coffee from my USAF mug, pacing around. Waiting. The text message came at roughly 1000, and I flew out the door. No pun intended.

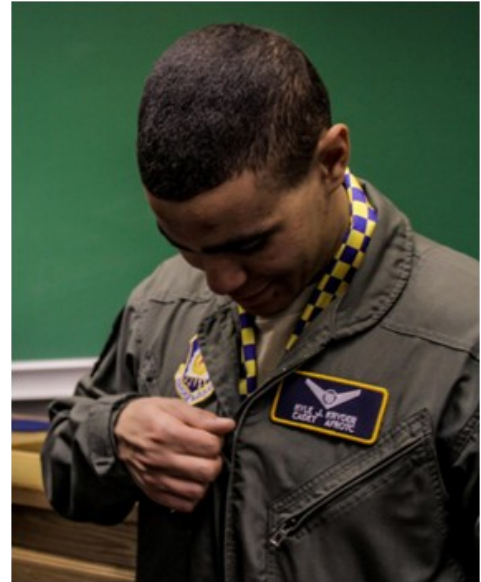
I'd spent years picturing this moment. Walking into Lt Col Doan's office may have been the hardest thing I've done, because I didn't know how I would come out. I said to him "Sir, I'm ready. Tell me how it is." Seemingly pre-meditated, he selected only eight words that have meant the most to me during my life. He extended his hand to me, saying, "Cadet Kryder, you're going to be a pilot."

That is the best handshake I will ever have.

My life has only just begun. The trade that people will know me for is now decided. It is up to me to put in more work than I have in order to get those wings coveted by many and yet earned by so few. Most people don't get this opportunity, and many that do waste it away. I do not intend to be among them. One month of flight screening and fifteen of pilot training is coming up. I'll give away more than I ever have to make it through that, and get to where I want to be. The path is set, and now I have to walk it.

He extended his hand to me, saying, "Cadet Kryder, you're going to be a pilot."

If anybody is interested in going down this path, send me an email. I'd love to chat with you about how I got here, and work with you to make it a possibility. A realistic possibility, that is. My email is kjf56@nau.edu, and my telephone number is (720)251-1683. I'd love to wear a green bag with you and listen to Dos Gringos while we do so; it's like wearing a bag filled with freedom.



Field Training Preparation

By C/3c Manny Juarez

Everyone in Air Force ROTC remembers the infamous field training preparation semester. It's full of late nights, more emails than one needs in a life time, and of course the constant feeling of being stressed out of your mind. No matter how much you feel like you can't do anything right, the most memorable part of field training preparation is that you have your fellow wingmen to stand by you and get you through it all.



My goal in writing this is to give a realistic view of this busy semester through the eyes of someone going through it now. I would say the best mind set to go into your FTP semester is with an open one, being a sponge that is there to absorb all the information you can. There will be a time to take control of the reins and lead but it's also one of the best times to observe what every one of your flight mates have to contribute as far as leadership styles. You will learn what you like, and what you don't like, and ultimately the true test of your leadership will come at field training, but this is the time to figure out who you are as a leader.

Personally this is my favorite semester I've had in AFROTC. There have been days when I have gone home feeling completely depleted and drained with the intensity this semester brings, but I have also forged the strongest bonds with my flight mates and would go through anything with them. You're also being introduced into a new bond, that is the sharing of stories about field training with all upper level cadets. I look forward to hopefully getting the chance to share preparation stories and tips with the next class about what inside tips I have picked up.

Even though this is the middle of the semester and some days are rough, I focus everyday on the idea of why I'm here. And that is to serve and protect the greatest country in the world. I try and remember, no matter how bad the day is, that it will be worth it!

F-16 Simulator

By C/3c Veronika Tsymbler

Participating in the F-16 simulator trip at Luke Air Force Base this semester has been one of the coolest, motivational experiences ever. It also showed me the importance of giving back to where you come from.

Luke Air Force base is the largest and only active duty F-16 training base in the world. The 308th Fighter Squadron known as the Emerald Knights had many student pilots who took time out of their days to answer our questions, giving invaluable insight into a career field which many of us aspire to enter. I didn't think it could get any better than touring the base and seeing all the F-16's outside (even a few in the air). And then Major Crabb, who is an NAU alumni, took us to the F-16 simulator.



The opportunity to see how it all works, luckily without the chance of actually crashing, is great motivation for the rest of this semester. It is difficult to even come up with words to explain just how exciting the experience truly was. It isn't even possible to compare it to a video game, because not only did you have the controls, but you also had the image of the world around you. It felt like you were actually in the cockpit of a real F-16.

As I mentioned earlier, Major Crabb is an NAU alumni. With the help of him and Captain Fleshman, myself and eight other cadets were able to experience this great opportunity that not many have. Not only did Major Crabb take the time to show us around base, he also kept us interested all day with a tremendous amount of knowledge, bettering us as cadets. At the end of the day he was even talking to Captain Fleshman about the possibility of coordinating something else in the future.

The time Captain Fleshman and Major Crabb took out of their Friday for us just showed the greatness of the leadership at and from Detachment 027!

PT Change

By C/3c Veronika Tsymbler

On February 26th we all read an email which would have a great impact on our schedules and lives for the rest of the semester. No more PT on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Instead we now will be attending PT every Tuesday and Thursday. One more hour. One more hour is what this change adds to our schedules. One more hour that can make a huge difference. Whether you use this hour to sleep, study or hangout with friends, with the right time management there is a lot you can do in an hour. This extra hour of our own time also means that it is that much more important for us to work out on our own. So find what motivates you and make it out to the gym! It can be anything from your future as an Air Force officer or not feeling guilty about that dessert you had earlier that day.

In case you have been wondering where this change came from, here is some background information which hopefully answers your questions. This change was led by Cadet Moore, who had originally attended Embry Riddle. Embry Riddle, like many other detachments, only hold PT twice a week. The requirement is to have at least two hours but no more than three. By implementing this change, Tuesday's and Thursday's now become AFROTC days. By having blocks of AFROTC classes in one day rather than just having one class per day, it puts you in the mindset for a whole day rather than just a few hours a day.

If you have any trouble finding motivation to make time to work out that extra day, just remember that as leaders and hopefully future Air Force officers, one of our core values is "Excellence In All We Do".

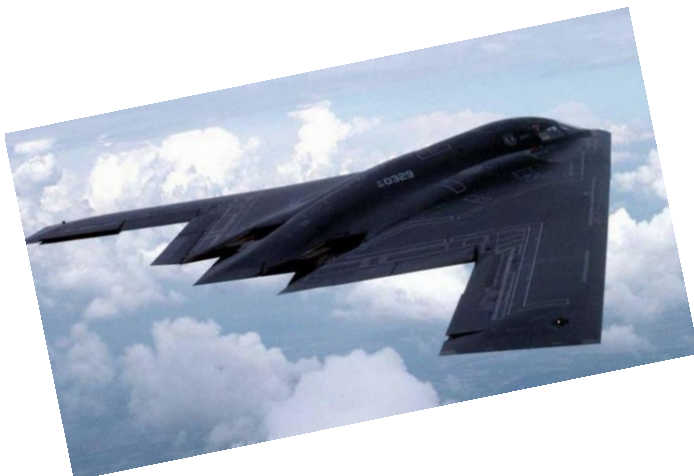
"Because we are taking out one day of PT this means that everyone has to make an additional effort to workout outside of PT. If you only work out during PT, your PFA scores will negatively reflect it. Be proactive and workout on the days we do not have PT. " - Cadet Colonel Caldwell



Plane Drawing Competition!

What You Need To Know:

- Draw any plane of your choice!
- Earn 5 Honor Points for your flight!!
- Entries will be featured in an issue of The Eagle!!



AIRMAN'S CREED

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.

I AM A WARRIOR.

I HAVE ANSWERED MY NATION'S CALL.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.

MY MISSION IS TO FLY, FIGHT, AND WIN.

I AM FAITHFUL TO A PROUD HERITAGE,
A TRADITION OF HONOR, AND A LEGACY OF VALOR.

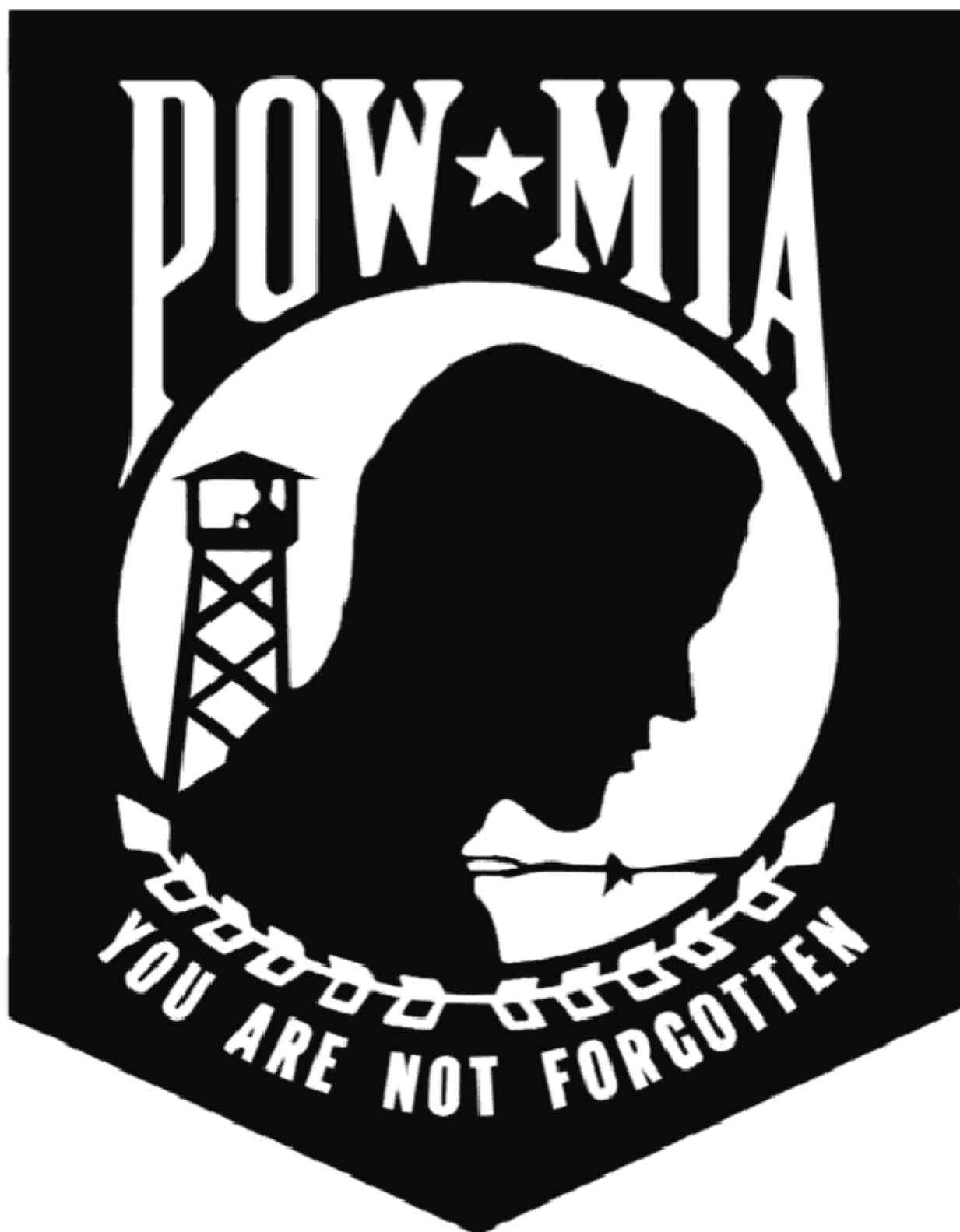
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN,
GUARDIAN OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE,
MY NATION'S SWORD AND SHIELD,
ITS SENTRY AND AVENGER.

I DEFEND MY COUNTRY WITH MY LIFE.

I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN:
WINGMAN, LEADER, WARRIOR.

I WILL NEVER LEAVE AN AIRMAN BEHIND,
I WILL NEVER FALTER,
AND I WILL NOT FAIL.





REMEMBER THOSE WHO
FOUGHT FOR YOU