

# THE EAGLE

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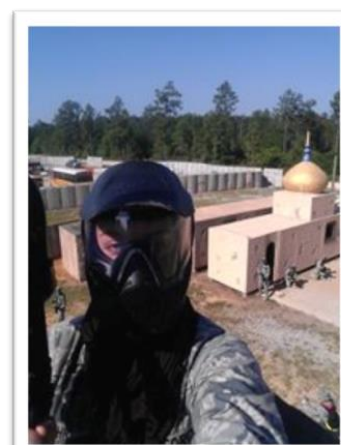
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Second Edition:

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### **A look inside going from GMC-POC- CTA: Told by Jordan and Manny Juarez**

As they make the final push to graduate NAU and commission into the Air Force, there is no dispute that Cadet Major Jordan Juarez and spouse Cadet Captain Manny Juarez have built up an arsenal of advice on how to successfully navigate AFROTC. To take advantage of their experience, *The Eagle* decided to sit these two down to get some insight into how they have accomplished so much in just 4 years. They gracefully shared not only their secrets to success but also gave us a look into their personal lives as well.



For C/Capt. Manny Juarez, life in the military was a given. “I always wanted to be ... doing something to protect others” he stated via email Sunday afternoon. C/Maj Jordan Juarez, however, did not make her decision to join until she shadowed an Intelligence Officer for a school project during her junior year of high school. Growing up C/Maj Jordan Juarez considered many career paths ranging from life as a FBI agent to even being a nun! Lucky for C/Capt Manny Juarez, she strayed from the convent lifestyle long enough for him to put a ring on her finger. After an admittedly sappy “Nicholas Sparks style” proposal at Flagstaff’s Lowell Observatory lookout, a then Jordan Kuehn agreed to Manny’s offer to be – as he put it – “drinking buddies for life.”

And while her husband may not be the most eloquent with words, C/Maj Jordan Juarez fosters a passion for the written word. “Something I don’t often share is that I love to write. If I couldn’t be in the Air Force, or maybe one day after the Air Force, I would try and turn some of the things I write for fun into actual novels,” said the future Intel Officer. After commissioning the two will be stationed at Minot AFB in Minot, North Dakota. When asked about how he feels towards the location of his future job as a Security Forces Officer, C/Capt. Manny Juarez jokingly posed the question, “why not Minot?”

What is their parting advice to our FTP cadets? C/Capt. Manny Juarez advises that cadets “go into field training with a blank slate. Learn to adapt to the situation and play the game.” “My biggest piece of general advice” suggests C/Maj Jordan Juarez, “is that field training is 50% performance and 50% attitude. It sucks no matter what; success comes from approaching it with the right mindset. Have fun when possible; don’t let the little things get to you. See it as a challenge and push yourself. Make friends with your flight mates and embrace the situation.”

While Det. 027's FTP cadets are busy absorbing as much Field Training advice as they can get their hands on, it is easy to forget that the both the Juarez's were in the same position less than two years ago. What were the biggest mistakes they made at Field Training? "I made the mistake of not spending enough time breaking in my boots. It is really hard to focus on what you need to do when you have blisters the size of quarters all over your feet." admitted C/Maj Jordan Juarez. Also suffering from shoe-related mistakes, C/Capt. Manny Juarez simply stated "I forgot a flip flop."

While discussing their time as GMC, the Juarez's shared with us who – whether Cadre or Cadet – has been their biggest inspiration during their time at Det. 027. "I remember looking up to former cadets Caldwell and Brandon," said C/Maj Jordan Juarez "They were so involved and dedicated. They made a point of going to GMC events that the other POC were 'too cool' to go to, and they worked hard until the day they graduated. For instance in AAS they came to almost every meeting even when everyone else stopped showing up. They made a point of getting to know the GMC and talking to them - they didn't ignore them like many older cadets. Manny and I told ourselves as freshmen that we wanted to be that type of POC." In a heartwarming gesture, C/Capt. Manny Juarez admitted that his inspiration was "the other

## How to Section

### Drill and Ceremonies: How to call a "To the rear" command

- The command is **To the Rear, MARCH**, given as the heel of the right foot strikes the ground. On the command **MARCH**, the airman takes a 12-inch step with the left foot, placing it in front of and in line with the right foot and distributes the weight of the body on the balls of both feet. Then pivot on the balls of both feet, turning 180 degrees to the right, and take a 12-inch step with the left foot in the new direction, with coordinated arm swing, before taking a full 24-inch step with the right foot. While pivoting, do not force the body up or lean forward. The pivot takes a full count and the arm swing is suspended to the sides as the weight of the body comes forward while executing the pivot, as if at the position of attention. D&C 3.16

Juarez.” “She is the biggest support system and someone that pushes me every day,” he shared. “We also both share a huge competitive drive, and she challenges me every morning I wake up whether it’s Phase 10 (card game) or who gets the higher GPA (Hint: she does!).”

At the end of the interview they shared their proudest accomplishments during their time in AFROTC. “I am most proud of the relationships I have forged,” stated C/Maj Jordan Juarez. “Our class is extremely tight-knit and we take a lot of pride in this. I have found great mentors and also great mentees.” C/Capt. Manny Juarez agreed, “The relationship between our class is something that is literally the best.”

## **Rapid Fire Questions**

Q: Favorite Candy?

A: M, Juarez: “Sour Patch Kids.” J, Juarez: “I’d rather eat potato chips.”

Q: How did you two meet?

A: M, Juarez: “Arnold Air Society... Yeah, it’s like a dating service. Watch out eHarmony.”

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: M, Juarez: “I’m one of those CrossFit guys... Except I do real pull-ups.” J, Juarez: “I would love to say I run triathlons or something but I play The Sims instead.”

Q: What is your spouse's best and worst qualities?

A: M, Juarez: "Best: That girl can remember everything, she is the brains of the operation for sure. Worst: If she doesn't get her 8 hours, proceed with caution!" J, Juarez: "Best: His enthusiasm for life and his work ethic. Worst: He is a brusque and very honest guy. He doesn't like to spend a lot of time wording things to be politically correct, he just says it. This can be very good, or very bad depending on the situation."

Q: Who named Beretta (their German Shepard) and who does she like more?

A: J, Juarez: "Manny came up with the name, but I got to pick her out. We went to look at a bunch of puppies and the first one that was put in my arms I refused to let go of. I think she loves us both for different reasons. She knows he is more fun to play with, but she knows I cuddle and pet her more, I also share more food with her."

Q: Kids?

A: J, Juarez: "Absolutely, we just have to wait a few years. I am really passionate about adopting and there are a lot of great agencies out there that help military families do that."

# Word Search

(Complete this word search and turn it into Cadet Hazen- [crh276@nau.edu](mailto:crh276@nau.edu) or hard copy to receive 10 Honor Points!!!)

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

AFB  
AIRFORCE  
BERETTA  
CTA  
FIELDTRAINING  
FORTMINOT  
FTP  
GERMANSHEPARD  
GMC  
INTELLIGENCE  
MILITARY  
NORTHDAKOTA  
POC  
SECURITYFORCES

## Project Go: With Cadets Erin Westphal and Bethany Patton

Over the past few months, the cadets of Detachment 027 have heard briefings, received emails, and seen countless posters advertising the Department of Defense's "Project Global Officers," or Project GO for short. While it may be common knowledge that the Project GO scholarship pays for critical language courses and travel for ROTC students, we at *The Eagle* wanted to track down some of the cadets who have not only successfully been accepted into the program, but also had the opportunity to learn a new language at several universities both in and out of the country. Cadet Captain Erin Westphal, a veteran of three different Project GO trips, was more than happy to share with us what she called "one of the most fun experiences I have ever had." Agreeing with her cohort C/Westphal, C/Major Bethany Patton described her Arabic study in San Bernardino, CA as "an amazing experience" that she wouldn't hesitate to participate in again.

Like all study abroad programs, all Project GO adventures start with a seemingly overwhelming amount of paperwork, however, both C/Westphal and C/Patton agree, it is well worth it in the end. And while signing up for language classes over the summer may not sound all too exciting, C/Patton was quick to assure us that "it doesn't feel like summer school where you have to drag yourself to class. It was so much fun and there were so many wonderful people, I was always excited to get up and learn."

The beginning of the application process typically begins mid-November and each program varies in length – some even sponsoring year-long studies. The easiest way to access this information is on the Project GO website at [www.rotcprojectgo.org](http://www.rotcprojectgo.org) where you can filter

- "...One of the most fun experiences I have ever had..."
- "...An amazing experience..."
- ... "I had a lot of fun with all of the people while also learning so much..."

through the hundreds of programs and narrow-down interests by searching by language, course level, and the location of the sponsor school. While each school requires a separate application, all request transcripts, short essay responses, and Cadre recommendation. Westphal's advice to increase your chances of being accepted? "Apply to more than one school. Apply to both stateside and abroad programs. Both are amazing opportunities and you don't want to miss out on a summer of learning just because you didn't get accepted to the abroad program you wanted."

Usually in late January, cadets start to hear back about the status of their applications and about what programs they have been invited to participate in. Because it is a nationwide program, any student can be sponsored by nearly any university. After participating in both domestic and foreign programs to learn Russian, C/Westphal earned college credit from several schools, including Indiana University, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Arizona State University. In her most recent and final year of Project GO, C/Westphal spent her summer in the Republic of Georgia - completely immersed in her new language. When asked what her most memorable part of her experience in Georgia was, C/Westphal shared "all of my Georgian and American friends [and I] jumped off an abandoned pier and swam in the Black Sea all day and then went out to dinner after the sun set. That was one of the best days of my life."

Because many of the language courses are open to civilians, as well as ROTC students from every service branch, the students in the classes come from all over the country and all different walks of life creating a diverse student base allowing classmates to learn from one another. "My favorite part was the people," shared C/Major



Patton. “All of the teachers, tutors, and other students were so friendly. Everyone was really supportive. I had a lot of fun with all of the people while also learning so much.”

Project GO, much like all things ROTC, involves quite a bit of work, and not just play. C/Westphal summed up the difficulties of Project GO by saying that “because you are doing a year’s worth of the language in one summer, you end up going to class for 4-5 hours a day with stateside programs assigning 4-7 hours of homework a night. “Abroad programs,” she continued, can have between 2-4 hours of work each evening. And with all that studying, any student is bound to make a few mistakes. “I told my peer tutor that I thought he was cute instead of nice,” confessed Westphal. “He proceeded to flirt with me the rest of the day and I was totally confused. I didn’t realize my mistake until the next day.”

Even after their study abroad, both C/Patton and C/Westphal hope to continue the pursuit of fluency in their chosen languages. “ I would like to study in Jordan because they speak their dialect of Arabic is closest to Modern Standard Arabic which is what is formally taught in schools,” C/Patton shared. “Someday I would like to go study in Morocco, but the dialect there is very different so I need to be much more proficient in my Arabic first.” When asked about how Russian will pertain to her future job, C/Westphal expressed that “understanding another culture and language is applicable in any job, not just the Air Force. I am hoping that my career in Space Ops will eventually cater to my knowledge of Russian, right now though I can’t say how.” While it remains to be seen exactly how these cadets will apply their new language, they harbor no regrets about their time with Project GO.

Project GO is a great opportunity to not only learn the language assigned, but also learn about where the language came from and spend time “doing cultural activities,” mentioned C/Patton. Her suggestion to interested students, “Have fun! Project GO was by far one of the best experiences I have ever had. You are definitely there to learn, but there are so many opportunities to have a great time while learning. Take advantage of all the wonderful opportunities the program will offer you and enjoy yourself. Work hard, but also play hard.”

Because of the vast array of programs open to ROTC cadets and civilians alike during all times of the year, there really is no good excuse to miss out on such an amazing opportunity. Even during her summer at Field Training, C/Maj Patton managed to still find time to participate in her program before the fall. “With field training at the beginning [of the summer] and then going to Project GO, the last week or two was tiring. It was a bit difficult to motivate myself to continue to study but... I would do it again if I could.” Her parting advice? “Do it!”

For a full list of programs and languages available, go to [www.rotcprojectgo.org](http://www.rotcprojectgo.org)