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THE EAGLE

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Captain Dinong

It's been three years that the Air Force has given Detachment 027 Captain Alison Dinong. Three years of service developing



students into officers of the United States Air Force. Three years of watching and caring for the students of Detachment 027. Three years of managing being a full-time mom and an AFROTC instructor which leaves little time for sleep. Captain Dinong has given

so much to the Air Force and to Detachment 027, but like all good things there is an end. She has spent her three-year tour here and now has an assignment in Tucson, Arizona, where she will be going back into her field of Intel.

If you are one of the few that haven't had the pleasure of getting to know Captain Dinong, you will find that she has a character full of compassion, determination, and an undying love for her family: both Air Force and relative. She has a four-year-old son, named Joey, whom she raises all on her own. However, despite only having one son that lives with her, she treats all the cadets at Detachment 027 as if they are

her own. While the parenting styles used for her son and the cadets are very different, her admiration and pride in seeing all of us grow brings joy to her heart. Her family doesn't stop there though. She is extremely blessed to have an amazing cadre staff that understands how much is on her plate and supports her through it all. She is from San Diego, California where the rest of her family lives minus her sister who lives in Northern California.



Captain Dinong grew up in California and her original career path did not include the Air Force. She attended school at San Diego State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in journalism. At this time, it was 2006 and the economy was in a bad place which caused Captain Dinong to reconsider where her career was going. Because her father was in the Army, it allowed for her to feel comfortable with the military and she dedicated herself to the military. Her first choice was the Marines, but she did not feel "badass enough for it". With her number one pick out of her options she determined her number three pick, Air Force, was her best option given that she couldn't swim well enough to go into the Navy. She didn't get into the United States Air Force Officer Training School (OTS) right away though. It took two long years before Captain Dinong began her training that would shape her into a Second Lieutenant and eventually the Captain she is today. She received her promotion to Captain while she was at Detachment 027.



Outside of the Air Force, Captain Dinong is more "badass" than she thinks. She is constantly busy between dedicating her time to Air Force, her son, and to the gym. That's right, our very own Captain Dinong is a body builder. Not the massive Arnold Schwarzenegger type but she's on the Figure level which is above Bikini but below Physique. Before having Joey, she was earning medals and placing in the top five which always brought a sense of accomplishment. After having Joey her time was more spread out and she couldn't dedicate as much of her effort towards the gym. Life just got in the way. Now, with things winding down a bit and she's getting used to being a single mom with the help of her parents, she plans on getting back into the gym to grind her way back to the podium.

With all this in mind, Detachment 027 can't thank Captain Dinong for all the time that she has given. While we know we must put service before ourselves, she has had to put service before a lot of things but she's never complained. Her hard work and dedication to the Air Force is something all cadets, officers, and enlisted should aspire to achieve. For now, this goodbye is not forever; this is not the end; this goodbye is us saying we'll miss her until we meet again.

By C/Solusod



Dining Out

The night finally came. Everyone waits for this day the whole year--fall comes, then spring, and finally Dining Out. Sure there's Dining In, but Dining OUT is the night where everyone's hard work is rewarded and celebrated. With each cadet groomed and polished in their best blues, they gather for one last event of the year. 100's, 200's, 300's, and the commissioning

class-- all of them have proven themselves, and now all of their best cadets are acknowledged for their hard work.



A few of my closest friends won awards that night, and I couldn't be prouder. The parents who came must have been proud, too. It is exciting to see those you love succeed. Seeing them succeed is contagious; everyone is motivated to do even better the next school year.

Aside from the awards, though, there were other events that made the night even better. There was a performance by the Honor Guard, a speech by esteemed alumni, Major General Earl Matthews, and the comedic relief of the night, the Detachment Oscars.



The NAU Honor Guard's performance was nothing short of spectacular. With breath-

taking tosses, and mesmerizing solos, they took the stage and the audience by storm. There was no doubt that the cadets were skilled at their craft. I am excited to see a wave of new faces ready to learn with them next semester.



After the performance, Det 027's own Major General Matthews presented us with an amazing, thought-provoking speech. All eyes were on him as he moved us with stories of his failures and successes as an Air Force officer. It made everyone feel more connected-- we all struggle, but we're

all going to make it out on top in the end. I'm sure we all learned something that we can continue to carry with us 'til it's our time to take the lead.

Finally, the Oscars. And no, I'm not talking about the glitz and glam on T.V. Prior to Dining Out, I had no idea the Detachment did something like this. I'm really glad we do, though. I'd be lying if I said there wasn't a roar of laughter in the room every time someone's name came up. It really shows how well we know our fellow cadets and how we can laugh at ourselves!

Overall, Dining Out was a great experience. The food, the people, the events. It all made for a memorable night that I know we won't forget. I encourage more and more to come next year, continue the traditions we have, and take in the moments that will last forever.

By C/McCarthy

Late Snow

Spring has sprung, and that means that the campus has come alive with teeming start of life. Trees begin to sprout their leaves, flowers begin to bloom, and the weather gets much warmer as the transition from winter to spring takes place. However, Mother Nature did bring us a wintry surprise earlier this month; it was one that hardly very few people would have expected to happen in the middle of April.

Where am I going with this? Yes, snow! You all recall that an article on snow was published in the Eagle for last month about the semester's snowy season, but this is about the unpredictability of Mother Nature. During the time period of snowfall and cold weather, half of the detachment was on a base visit to Kirtland AFB and the other half still on campus. This story will be broken up into two major components.

First, Kirtland AFB. Friday morning at the beginning of PT, cadets were greeted by blasts of bone-chilling wind that faced them head-on as they performed their long run around the base.

Gusts picked up dust and stung some unfortunate cadets at their bare legs as everybody struggled against the wind. It was at the end of PT when the surprise came. One cadet noticed something white and cold that landed against his skin and blurted out that it was snowing. At first, nobody believed that cadet until everybody else began to look up and for sure, it was actually snowing in Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. Some cadets were in awe at the sight. Others caught by surprise by the phenomenon that was happening right before their eyes in the middle of April.

Wednesday, April 18, was when the NAU campus witnessed perhaps the rarest snowfall to happen all year. Of course, when it did snow, there were very few occasional flurries that hailed down on Flagstaff but none of the snow was able to stick together and it melted very quickly.

Cold weather ensued with breezy conditions throughout the day, which did force the higher-ups on the chain of command to have the FA take place the next day at the HLC. This also led to the cancellation of LLab as the FA (which was supposed to take place during LLab) was moved to PT earlier that Thursday. Sure, not many people were happy about having the FA early in the morning and missing out on a chance to sleep in; but it breathes a sigh of relief to many cadets as they know all ROTC functions were done for that day. Wrapping up that Thursday, cadets and the entire NAU campus were treated to the beauty of Mt. Humphreys with its snow-covered peaks.

C/Park

Congratulations to all of the commissioning cadets!

The commissioning ceremony is Sunday May 13 at 2 PM. Guests may arrive at 1 PM. The ceremony is located at NAU's Cline Library auditorium, room 102. Here is a list of the commissioning cadets, their assigned AFSC, and their first duty station.

Name	AFSC	Duty Station
Ethan Baker	CSO	NAS Pensacola, FL
Eric Baskovich	Pilot	Vance AFB, OK
Daniel Brillhart	Pilot	Vance AFB, OK
Hannah Cantrell	ABM	Tyndall AFB, FL
Aaron DeLuca	Developmental Engineer	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
Genevieve Drachman	Intel Officer	Goodfellow AFB, TX
Haley Johnson	Intel Officer	Goodfellow AFB, TX
John McGrady	Airfield Operations Officer	Whiteman AFB, MO
Seth Nanny	Pilot	Laughlin AFB, TX
Thomas Rabska	RPA	Randolph AFB, TX
Michael Roberts	CSO	NAS Pensacola, FL
James Stocks	Security Forces Officer	FE Warren AFB, WY

Meagan Townsend	Intel Officer	Goodfellow AFB, TX
Austin Van Doren	Pilot	Vance AFB, OK
Ethan Wood	Physicist	Kirtland AFB, NM



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