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DET 030

Thunderhaws



University of Arkansas

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Executive Summary
of AFROTC Detachment 30's Annual Report
(31 July 2007- 30 June 2008)
to the University of Arkansas

Commissioned 12 new lieutenants into the active duty Air Force, five on December 14, 2007 and seven on May 9, 2008)

Four out of nine applicants were accepted for pilot training, and one for navigator.

In the fall and in the spring, cadre and cadets held active positions on the committee for the VA Hospital's MIA/POW ceremonies. The fall ceremony was held in conjunction with Veterans' Day, and the spring ceremony took place in April. During each ceremony our honor guard posted the colors and performed the POW-MIA table observance.

Valentines for Vets: the week of February 14 (which fell on a Thursday this year), cadets and staff members visited the local veterans' hospital in recognition of Valentines for Vets Day. Different cadets visited on each day and handed out Valentine greetings from local elementary school students.

In April the cadre took a small group of cadets on a multi-day tour of Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas. They saw "up close and personal" a C-130 flight simulator, parachute simulator, night vision goggle lab, Security Force's shooting simulator, engine maintenance shop, hand-on medical training, and much more.

In April the cadets planned, organized and executed a Spring Social (semi-formal dinner) for 60+ people. Lt Col Mellott, Commander of Detachment 030, Air Force ROTC (University of Arkansas) served as the guest speaker.

The Honor Guard posted the colors mainly at university football games, basketball games, and gymnastics meets. Our honor guard members remain great ambassadors for the University of Arkansas and the Air Force, but school comes first.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Provost Robert C. McMath

FROM: AFROTC DET 30/CC

DATE: August 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Air Force ROTC Annual Report

1. Overall Assessment: The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) program at the University of Arkansas (Detachment 30) continues to prepare and commission some of the most highly qualified new lieutenants in the United States Air Force. In addition, our cadets who return from their four or six-week field training encampments continue to express a high level of appreciation for the great morale and thorough instruction they experience at the University of Arkansas. We fully plan to continue our excellent service to the University of Arkansas, our community, our nation, and the world in 2008-2009.

2. Enrollment Information ('07-'08 academic year): Enrollment remains somewhat low. We continue to expect lower than average numbers as Air Force demand for new officers remains low and the selection process becomes more competitive nationally. We continue working to aggressively recruit and retain eligible University of Arkansas students as we believe our students rival the best anywhere.

Total Cadets	66 (07/08) / 55 (06-07)	
Freshmen	18	13
Sophomores	16	11
Juniors who have not completed field training	0	2
Juniors	11	9
Seniors	13	15
Fifth-year seniors (completed cadets)	8	5

Commissioned in 2007 - 08	12	Summer '08 Field Training attendees	8
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2007-08

Contracted, not on scholarship	7
On scholarship	40 (includes 9 freshman)
Total Contracted	47

Projected to commission 2008 – 09	17	Summer '09 Field Training projections	14
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3. Personnel Information: Our detachment staff is fortunate to experience one turnover this summer. Going into the Fall 08 semester, our cadre members will be:

- a. Lt Col Lionel Mellott, who will begin his third year as Commander of AFROTC Detachment 30, and will also serve as instructor of the senior-level cadets.
- b. Major Michael Murders, who will serve his fourth year (second year as Unit Admissions Officer) and will teach the freshman- and sophomore-level classes.
- c. Captain James “Craig” Bench, who will serve his fifth year (second year as our Commandant of Cadets in charge of leadership labs and overall cadet training) and will teach our junior-level class.
- d. SSgt Sergeant Angela Cole, will begin her first year as our Personnel Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO).
- e. Technical Sergeant Therese Soliz Torres, who will begin her fourth year as our NCO for Information Management.
- f. Ms Denise Smith, our secretary, who will begin her eighth year with the department this fall.

4. Professional Development and Training Highlights:

- a. Commissioning: This year (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008) we were privileged to commission a total of 12 new lieutenants. Five was commissioned on December 14, 2007. Twelve was commissioned on May 9, 2008. Our guest speaker for the December ceremony was Colonel John F. Thompson, Chief of Staff, HQ Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB OH; and our May ceremony speaker was Colonel Mark C. Vlahos, Vice Commander of the 314th Airlift Wing, Little Rock Air Force Base, AR.
- b. Pilot / navigator selection: this year our selection rate was lower for our cadets due to the competitiveness of students applying for pilot and navigator training. Four out of nine applicants were accepted for pilot training, and one for navigator.
- c. Field training preparation: our junior and senior-level cadets again did an outstanding job planning and implementing creative training activities for those slated to attend field training this summer. Two Field Leadership Training exercises were held at Calvary Baptist church on Porter Road, and a third took place during their base visit to Little Rock AFB, at Camp Warlord. The result: as of Aug 1, two of our field training attendees have earned the honor of Distinguished Graduate (top 10%) and one earned Superior Performer (top 20%).
- d. Other cadet educational travel: this summer we sent four rising sophomore cadets on 3-week visits to various Air Force bases as part of a nationwide push to

introduce cadets early to the “real” Air Force. In addition, one of our juniors was selected to participate in the US Air Force Academy’s Free Fall program, allowing our cadet to parachute on five occasions and earn his “jump” badge. Finally, one of our senior Civil Engineering cadets was selected to for a 5-week program to shadow and work with an active duty CE organization in Guam.

- e. Base Visit: Cadre members took several cadets to Little Rock Air Force Base in April. This year cadets made that trip on Thursday, April 24, and returned late Sunday, April 27. The cadets were able to tour a C-130 flight simulator, parachute simulator, night vision goggle lab, Security Force’s shooting simulator, engine maintenance shop, hand-on medical training, and much more. Air Expeditionary Instructors provided them with a simulated deployment setting, which turned out to be the highlight of their visit.
- f. Cadet-organized large-scale functions: one of our biggest practice tools for cadets learning is to organize major events. This year included our fall combat dining-out at the Army National Guard by Drake Field. Lt Col Lionel S. Mellott, Commander of Air Force ROTC, Detachment 030 (University of Arkansas) served as the guest speaker. The event went well both as a cadet learning tool and as a social highlight.
- g. Guest speakers for cadets: this past spring, we brought in the following guest lecturers for our cadets: Little Rock AFB JAG officer, Capt Hartman, visited and provided insight into JAG opportunities and CGO experiences. Two alumni Lieutenants (Brett Cullen and Christopher Behrens), visited and provide insight on their first two years of pilot training. Our guest speaker for the May commissioning ceremony was Colonel Mark C. Vlahos, Vice Commander of the 314th Airlift Wing, Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas.

5. Community Service Highlights:

- a. VA Hospital ceremonies: both in the fall and in the spring, cadre and cadets held active positions on the committee for the VA Hospital’s MIA/POW ceremonies. The fall ceremony was held in conjunction with Veterans’ Day, and the spring ceremony took place in April. During each ceremony our honor guard posted the colors and performed the POW-MIA table observance.
- c. Valentines for Vets: the week of February 14 (which fell on a Thursday this year), cadets and cadre, along with university and city officials, visited with VA patients and handed out Valentine greetings from local elementary school students in recognition of Vets Day.
- d. Honor guard: this year our honor guard posted the colors mainly at university football games, basketball games, gymnastics meets, and the Miss UofA Pageant. Most other community-related events (local grade-school assemblies, nursing-

home gatherings, etc) occurred at times that conflicted with our students' class schedules. Our honor guard members remain great ambassadors for the University of Arkansas and the Air Force, but school comes first.

6. Request for support: Our only request is to continue the great support you've provided over the year. We feel extremely fortunate to have such a supportive university family.