

AFJROTC

Notes

News &

September 2018

CHECK US OUT ON AFJROTC.COM

 HQ AF JUNIOR ROTC

From the Director...



Colonel Paul C. Lips
AFJROTC Director

Team,

As we begin Academic Year 2018-2019, I would like to welcome all our new cadets to AFJROTC! You are now part of an organization dedicated to your development and service to your community and the nation. You may not realize it, but you have made a great decision. I hope you stick with the program, find your niche, and lead the way. For our

returning cadets, you should be helping make our program even better by finding ways to improve upon what cadets before you have done. My charge for those of you in cadet leadership positions is to lead by example, and always remain humble and approachable. Your instructors do not expect leadership perfection. Your instructors expect you to learn from your mistakes, and continue to develop and grow as leaders of character. Set your goals high, and work hard to achieve them!

Additionally, I want to welcome our new instructors to AFJROTC. Thank you for choosing to continue to serve the nation, and I hope being an AFJROTC instructor is a rewarding experience.

THANK YOU to our returning instructors. Your dedication to our cadets and their development is awe-inspiring!

This has been a very busy and successful summer for AFJROTC!

- Over 900 AFJROTC cadets took home 60 National Championship trophies at the National High School Drill Competition in Daytona Beach, FL
- 16 AFJROTC teams made it to the finals in the Joint Leadership and Academic Bowl, with Scripps-Ranch High School, San Diego, CA winning the overall competition for the third year in a row!
- 120 AFJROTC cadets attended the inaugural Flight Academy program at 6 universities across the country
- 194 Instructors attended the AFJROTC Instructor Certification Course at the Maxwell AFB Gunter Annex in Montgomery, AL
- Numerous other Cadet Leadership courses were held all over the country and at our overseas units

HQ AFJROTC continues to work hard and advocate for our program. We are expanding the Flight Academy to 250 cadets this year, and hope to develop Drone, Cyber, and other leadership camps as well. We are collaborating with the AF STEM Office and Civil Air Patrol to continue to expand opportunities to as many cadets as possible.

All the best for this Academic Year!

Respectfully,

Paul C. Lips, Col, USAF

Director, AFJROTC

In This Issue...

From the Director	1
Instructor Management Corner ...	2
Operations Update	3
News & Noteworthy	5

Instructor Management Corner...



Mr. David Richerson
Chief, Instructor Management

Welcome back to another promising year of AFJROTC! It is my hope that everyone achieves the goals they have set.

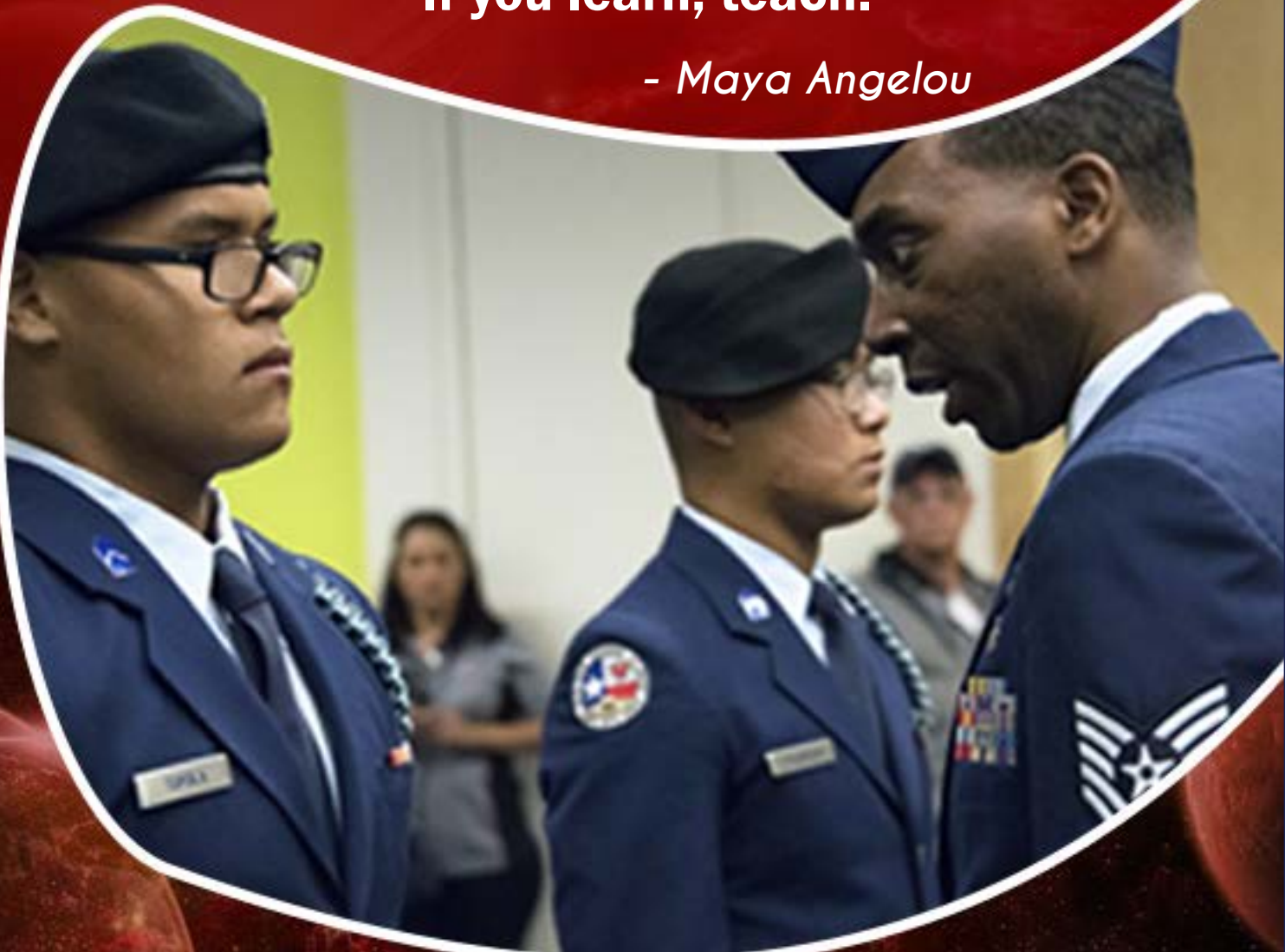
As we know, AFJROTC instructors are the best ones to inspire others to become an AFJROTC instructor. If you know anyone soon to retire who may succeed in AFJROTC, please talk with them and encourage them to submit an application. Right now, we have many openings that need quality, retired Airmen to fill.

JICC 2019 will be here before we know it and we need seminar leaders! If interested in serving as a seminar leader, please contact your Regional Director. All new instructors who have not attended JICC are expected to do so in 2019. Please review the JICC 2019 announcement located in WINGS/Published Files.

Have a great fall semester!

**“If you get, give.
If you learn, teach.”**

- Maya Angelou



Operations Update...



Major Michael Allen
Dep Chief, Ops Division

Greetings from your HQ AFJROTC Leadership Development Requirements (LDR) Branch. I am personally excited to begin this school year and my unit evaluations. I often tell people that although I wear many hats at headquarters, the most rewarding experience is getting out to the field and seeing all the positive change that is occurring in our cadet corps. This is a

direct result of the hard work you put into your programs day in and day out. We are truly blessed to have such a fine cadre of instructors molding these future leaders.

As we enter another exciting school year, I want to share with you a few items that will affect the service we provide you, our customer. First, as many of you are aware, MSgt Larry Nix has retired. Although Larry was only with us for a year, he was absolutely instrumental in building the framework for the LDR branch at a lightning pace and creating sustainable, repeatable processes for the growth of our programs. His replacement is CMSgt Elizabeth Carty and we are excited to have her on board. The Chief brings a wealth of knowledge and we hope to keep her on board as long as possible.

Second, I want to address the Director's Special Interest Item for LDRs referenced in the policy letter to all instructors dated 24 Aug 18. Specifically, I want to give you a history and peek into our mindset in making this very significant change. As we all know, an LDR variety contributes to experiential learning and the type of program that attracts, retains, and grows cadets and the unit. The opposite is true for units that are essentially classroom only.

As defined by AFJROTCI 36-2010, para 7.2.3.1. LDR activities are...“AFJROTC-sponsored and school-approved teams and/or committees that normally plan or participate in events conducted outside classroom hours (before school/after school). These events are planned, organized and executed by the cadet corps while being supervised by a certified AFJROTC Instructor.”

One of the core things we looked at is how well our LDR repertoire correlate to our “Air Force” brand. In order to do this, we had to ask ourselves a few questions. 1) What is “the why” in what we do? 2) Are we keeping pace with the interests of not only our cadets but the Air Force?

3) Are we keeping pace with the future as it pertains to workforce development? 4) Are we building the best citizens of character?

As the service of technology, we feel the Air Force's Junior ROTC brand should place an emphasis on Aerospace, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (ASTEM if you will). With that in mind, our staff began drafting a proposal to steer us in that direction. During JICC 2018, a working group comprised of seasoned seminar leaders and members of the HQ staff met to discuss these ideas. Overall, the idea was supported with very few minor changes.

As a follow-up to paragraph 7 of the 24 Aug 18 policy letter, I am providing the following descriptions so you can accurately rate your units on the Director's Special Interest Item for LDRs. I have also attached a list of known LDRs in their appropriate category as an example. Again, there is no intent to depreciate the value of the Activity Based and Unit Based categories but instead to place an added emphasis on what the Air Force values. The end state is to begin incorporating these opportunities into your unit's “LDR toolbox”.

Descriptions

ASTEM Based: any LDR that has an Aerospace, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (ASTEM), or academia related base AND has an outside partnership and/or that includes a national level competition.

Activity Based: any LDR that may/may not have an ASTEM or academia related base but does have an outside partner and/or local level or above competition.

Unit Based: any LDR that is local level only and that primarily benefits the cadet corps, school and/or local community.

Evaluation Standards

Exceeds Standards: units must have a minimum of at least 1 LDR in each of the above categories and an overall total of 7 or more total LDRs in any combination of the above categories.

Meets Standards: units must have a minimum of at least 1 LDR in each of the above categories, total of 3 to 6 LDRs total.

Meet Standards W/Discrepancies: units have 3 LDRs; however, the unit does not have 1 in each of the specified categories.

Does Not Meet Standards - Unit has less than 3 LDRs

Operations Update... (continued)

The following list of LDRs is not all inclusive and instructors should contact their RD and HQ-LDR with any questions concerning appropriate categorization or the new process. As always, thank you for what you do!

ASTEM Based
UAS (multicopter or RC aircraft)
StellarXplorers
CyberPatriot
JLAB
Rocketry
Robotics
Astronomy
Meteorology

Activity Based
Marksmanship
Raiders/Fitness
Drill
Color Guard
Archery
Orienteering
Kitty Hawk
Boxing

Unit Based
Planning Committee
Flag Detail
Sports Teams
Awareness Presentation Team
Tutoring
Morale Team
Saber Team
Chorus

VR,

Maj Mike Allen



News & Noteworthy...



Well you did it! AFJROTC had a successful inaugural Flight Academy during the summer of 2018. More than 750 students applied, 621 were boarded, and 120 selected. Attendees stretched from as far as California to Germany.

Flight training began 28 May and finished 17 August (varied with each university). The program was an 8-week intensive on-campus effort taking students from zero, to private pilot certification. Cadets were sent to six different universities, all managing their own respective programs. Even though the weather caused much havoc and maintenance threw a wrench (pun intended) into well made plans, the six partnering universities were able to complete 85 of our cadets. Those who were successful did so with around 55 flying hours, well under the national average of 70-80 flying hours. Here are a few stats:

- 71% Received their Private Pilot Certification
- 93% solo'd the aircraft
- 97% passed the FAA Written Exam
- 100% received college credit!!!!

The 2019 Summer Flight Academy scholarship will grow to 250 cadets. We're looking to partner with 15 universities from Florida to California. All will have an Air Force ROTC presence either on campus or via a crosstown campus. Cadets will have the opportunity to learn from the best flight programs in the country as well as earn college credit!

The selection and screening process for students was highly competitive and proved a contributing factor to the inaugural year's success. Students needed a 3.0 or above GPA to apply, were graded against their peers on an Aviation Qualification Test (derived from the Air Force Officers Qualification Test), aviation experience, endorsements, leadership experience and physical fitness. Many had some type of leadership experience, some were members of Civil Air Patrol (CAP), and others were Girl/Boy Scouts. The average Fitness score of the selects was 63.



You may be asking, what can I do to be more competitive for the scholarship? Well, you must be an AFJROTC cadet. Next, find an AFOQT study guide and look over those questions and tips (it'll help on the aviation test). If you haven't already, find an opportunity to lead. It doesn't have to be in AFJROTC and in fact helps to have additional leadership outside of your unit. Participate in your unit's aviation related LDRs, multi-copter, rockets, etc.... Participate in the CAP orientation flight program. There is NO ONE thing that will separate you from the pack. All of the inaugural scholarship winners were well rounded individuals who wanted to explore aviation. This year's selectees will be the same.

With all that said we're calling on all cadets who have at least a 3.0 GPA, are current enrolled in AFJROTC as a sophomore, junior, or senior year for 2018-2019, and have an interest in aviation to apply to this year's Chief of Staff of the Air Force Private Pilot Scholarship (AFJROTC Flight Academy). See your SASI or ASI today.

15 Oct -	Cadets begin application process
7 Dec 18	
9 Oct -	Complete Aviation Qualifying Test (AQT)
9 Nov 18	
9 Nov 18	Sophomore cadet application suspense to HQ
16 Nov 18	Junior cadet application suspense to HQ
7 Dec 18	Senior cadet application suspense to HQ
7 - 11	Selection board
Jan 19	
14 Jan 19	Notify selected and alternate cadets
15 Jan -	Complete FAA Class I Flight Physical
28 Feb 19	
28 Feb 19	Last day to complete flight physical
1 - 29	Cadets matched to universities
Mar 19	
Summer	Cadet program start dates will vary
2019	

SHINING STARS

GOLD VALOR AWARD, AY 2018/2019

MD-931

Cadet Kayla Bowman
Cadet Hunter Burch

SC-951

Cadet Regan Zieverink

TX-083

Cadet Justin Ocasio

TX-956

Cadet Morgan Neyland

VA-091

Cadet Connor Gamma

SILVER VALOR AWARD, AY 2018/2019

IN-20011

Cadet Christopher Walsh

FL-20024

Cadet Ryan G. Birkhofer

MN-20141

Cadet Hannah Peiffer

NC-942

Cadet Willow Radford

NJ-20002

Cadet Briana Pereira

NM-021

Cadet Isaiah Hatfield

SC-932

Cadet Daylen Owens

VA-20021

Cadet Zachary Frye
Cadet Jardin Keyser

WV-20021

Cadet Nicholas Quintin
Braithwaite

HUMANITARIAN AWARD, AY 2018/2019

FL-092

Cadet Gianna Azzarro
Cadet Juan Bayron
Cadet Isaac Castellanos
Cadet Jared Dibble
Cadet Robert Kincart
Cadet Luke Liptak
Cadet Ari Seaman
Cadet Alex Vanderwier
Cadet Darrel Wilson

Cadet John Zito

FL-20083

Cadet Andrea Santa

GA-20131

Cadet Steele Freeland

MO-851

Cadet Jacob A. Alvarez
Cadet Antoinette Bates
Cadet Christina Bui
Cadet Besa Busho
Cadet Kalise Harris
Cadet Arnez Houston
Cadet Tony Huynh
Cadet Angel Jones
Cadet Lorell A. Jones
Cadet Jalliah Kilbert
Cadet Abdisamad Mohamed
Cadet Milianys M. Pacheco
Cadet Aneesa Patton
Cadet Nia Rankins
Cadet Lixtzy A. Rojas
Cadet Emily C. Schmid
Cadet Brianna Simms
Cadet Jonathan Trejo
Cadet Waiel Turner
Cadet Maria Valencia
Cadet Jessica L. Webb
Cadet Damerial E. Whitaker

TX-083

Cadet Bryce Addison
Cadet Efrain Gutierrez
Cadet Isaac Martinez
Cadet Justin Ocasio
Cadet Esmeralda Padron
Cadet Dezarae Petteway

TX-963

Cadet Mireya Acosta
Cadet Hailey Arias
Cadet Kazandra Garcia
Cadet Starr Gonzales
Cadet Denise G. Gonzalez
Cadet Emily Gonzalez
Cadet Aramie Gordon
Cadet Mia D. Hayes
Cadet Alejandro Hernandez
Cadet Melanie P. Hernandez
Cadet Pedro Hernandez
Cadet Johana Herrera
Cadet Rachel Lopez

Cadet Wilber Marquez
Cadet Deavion L. Martin
Cadet Ethan Martin
Cadet Daisy Martinez
Cadet Juan Quintanilla
Cadet Joshua I. Rivera
Cadet Ashley Rodriguez
Cadet Manuel Rodriguez
Cadet Contreras Ruiz
Cadet Stephany Ruiz
Cadet David S. Soto
Cadet Amalia R. Torres
Cadet Edilene Uribe
Cadet Emily Villanueva
Cadet Erika Vilanueva
Cadet Stephannie Villanueva
Cadet Isamar Zamarripa

TX-20006

Cadet Celene Beltran
Cadet Grace Berger
Cadet Abner Garcia
Cadet Emma Gornick
Cadet Joseph Drake Greer
Cadet Nicole Grilley
Cadet Dane Howard
Cadet Victoria Jones
Cadet Kira Linehan
Cadet Kaci Elizabeth Moser
Cadet Ronald Moser
Cadet Asenette Ruiz

TX-20104

Cadet Josue D. Barahona
Cadet Ethan Blair
Cadet Guadalupe Carmona
Cadet Tatiana J. Chacon
Cadet Nicolas Cook
Cadet Gabriela Dorantes
Cadet Adam Gil
Cadet Sebastian Guevara
Cadet Hannah Lancaster
Cadet Matthew Leon
Cadet Matthew A. Malone
Cadet Shawn Odonnell
Cadet Desiree Quijas
Cadet Chris Sarver
Cadet Linda Schmunk
Cadet Ishaan Sharma
Cadet Saachi Sharma
Cadet Isaac Skinner

SHINING STARS

HUMANITARIAN AWARD, AY 2018/2019 (CONTINUED)

Cadet Aidan Smith
Cadet Grant Smith
Cadet Aaron Soltmann
Cadet Ryan Soucek
Cadet Ryan Spence
Cadet Grant Stephens
Cadet Anthony Swilley
Cadet Mitchell Tilotta
Cadet Anthony Toarmina
Cadet Andrea Toh
Cadet Angel T. Tran
Cadet Patrick Tran
Cadet Andrew Tunstead
Cadet Juliana Uceda
Cadet Cassidy Valles
Cadet Zachary Walker
Cadet Sebastian Walsh
Cadet Daniel Watrous
Cadet James Westphal
Cadet Parker Willett
Cadet Kieran Woods

COMMUNITY SERVICE WITH EXCELLENCE AWARD, AY 2018/2019

CA-862

Cadet Jorge Reyes
Cadet Jennifer Ruiz
Cadet Nou Thao

FL-881

Cadet Haley Bassett

FL-941

Cadet Sarah Connell

MN-20141

Cadet Caylee Klug

NE-021

Cadet Lillian West

TX-793

Cadet Drake Adkins

IL-941 CADETS COLLECT SUPPLIES FOR ST LOUIS USO

On Sunday, 4 March, Dupu Community High School (IL-941) cadets set up a collection point in front of the local Walmart and collected for the St. Louis USO. The cadets collected over 27 extra large moving boxes worth of items for the USO, exceeding 10,000 individual items in all.



BATTLE GROUND, PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL CADETS JOINTLY HOST BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK

*Cadet Maj Ferguson and Cadet Lt Morrison
Battle Ground AFJROTC Public Affairs Officer*

On April 14th at 7:30AM, 75 cadets from the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps of Battle Ground (WA-952) and Prairie (WA-953) High Schools assembled to honor the memory of events that took place over 75 years ago, in a country 3000 miles from Battle Ground. The AFJROTC Bataan Death March memorial walk was a time to honor and remember the sacrifices of the victims and survivors of World War II's Bataan Death March, one of the most harrowing events in US and Filipino history. Shortly after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, a group of brave

soldiers responsible for the defense of the islands of Luzon, Corregidor and the harbor defense forts of the Philippines faced a brutal foe.

On April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers were surrendered to Japanese forces; the only occasion when an American force was surrendered to the enemy. The American forces were comprised of Army, Army Air Corps, Navy and Marines, many from the 200th Coast Artillery, New Mexico National Guard.

The troops were marched for days in the scorching heat and humidity through the Philippine jungles of the Bataan Peninsula. Thousands died or were killed by the enemy. Those who survived faced the hardships of a prisoner of war camp. The conditions encountered on the march and during the aftermath of the battle were a unique challenge to the physical and emotional capacity of the human spirit to survive.

The AFJROTC march provided the cadets an opportunity to learn more about the historical link to Bataan while also ramping up their fitness to take-on a 14-mile course. Prior to the march, cadets received lectures from Dr. Roger Jarvis, an avid historian and



father of a former BGHS cadet. Dr. Jarvis also had an amazing display of historical artifacts, documents, and photographs at the stadium for cadets and supporters to review on the day of the march. Since the original Bataan Memorial March event at White Sands New Mexico in 1990, memorial marches have grown from about 100 to some 6,500 marchers annually from across the United States and several foreign countries. In 2015, HQ Air Force Junior ROTC introduced an opportunity for cadets to earn a special award for completion of a 14-mile march.

The Battle Ground event was held on the path along WA-503, the cadets forming a singular unit beginning at the Battle Ground track. Upon reaching the Prairie High School, cadets walked a mile around the track and headed back to Battle Ground, another 6 miles. Once at the destination, a mile was walked around the District Stadium track, and with this, 14 miles were successfully completed.

RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS 3RD ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL HIKE

By CMSgt (ret) Lee Beausoleil and NV-031 Public Affairs Cadet Staff

Kicking off their 50th Anniversary celebration week, cadets from Rancho High School (NV-031) in Las Vegas hosted the Bataan Death March Memorial Hike under sunny skies and brisk winds. More than 125 cadets from Rancho and other local High Schools laced up their shoes and completed the 14 mile memorial hike in less than four hours to earn their Bataan Death March Memorial Hike Ribbon.

Several cadets commented on the added pressure to finish the event within the time limit, but also remarked the pressure paled in comparison to the thousands of American and Filipino soldiers who endured one of the most brutal events of World War II.

NV-031 hosts the event in the first week of April each year to commemorate the sacrifices and extraordinary courage of American and Filipino soldiers captured by the Japanese in 1942.



LEE HIGH SCHOOL CADET EARNS AWARD, SCHOLARSHIP



Cadet Alexia Murry with the Daughters of the American Revolution members

Lee High School (AL-011) Cadet Alexia Murry received the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Award recently at a program at the Montgomery Country Club. Awards were presented to one college ROTC cadet and one high school JROTC cadet by the local Anne Phillips Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The award is presented to “a JROTC student who has demonstrated academic excellence, dependability, good character, adherence to military discipline, leadership, and a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of the Reserve Officers Training Corps.”

Great job, Cadet Murry!



CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL CADETS SPREAD STEM INTEREST TO LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Bishop Nash, April 19, 2018

BARBOURSVILLE - Like a scene from “October Sky,” a rocket hissed skyward from mission control at the Martha Elementary School playground Wednesday, arcing behind the bright, white clouds on the first nice day in a week.

Atmospheric conditions proved perfect for Rocket Day at Martha Elementary School as third- and fourth-graders in Cabell County’s talented and gifted program built and launched their own rockets under the guidance of Cabell Midland High School’s Air Force JROTC (WV-942).

“To be able to come back and help them do something that I love to do also is really fun,” said Sophia Parlock, a junior at Cabell Midland and a member of JROTC’s rocketry team, which designs and builds rockets for competition.

“It’s also kind of jolting a little bit to come back down to help, because I feel like I was just (in elementary school). I know how they’re thinking, and helping out with science projects at this young age is great.”



Ten-year-old Maddie Chapman tests out her Goddard Rocket during Rocket Day at Martha Elementary. Credit: Sholten Singer/ The Herald-Dispatch



Sophia Parlock, right, assists 9-year-old Kennedy Schultz with building a Goddard Rocket as students participate in Rocket Day activities. Credit: Sholten Singer/ The Herald-Dispatch

While high schoolers launched their own black powder-fueled rockets in exhibition, third- and fourth-graders stuck to manufacturing more modest missiles - comprised of foam insulation for hulls, Styrofoam fins and a rubber-band propellant launched from their fingertips. It all falls within the gifted program’s recent lessons focusing on drone technology and aerodynamics.

“I just think it’s important that they see high school or Marshall kids who have found their footing and can partner with us to provide these hands-on experiences,” said Laura Blackman, a gifted teacher at Central City Elementary School. “We could do this in our classroom, but it’s not the same as getting to meet a high school student, so we love partnering with local schools.”

“Plus the kids get tired of hearing (teachers) all the time,” added Meghan Salter, who teaches gifted students at Martha Elementary.

The countywide talented and gifted program, or TAG, nurtures the most promising young students from each elementary school, gathering them in their own separate class once a week and affording them additional educational experiences.

DELAND HIGH SCHOOL CADETS TOUR WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, MEET SECAF

Thirty-nine cadets from DeLand High School (FL-023) embarked on a Curriculum in Action trip like no other. They departed DeLand, Florida at 0400 on a Friday morning, arriving at Andrews AFB after a 14-hour bus ride. Cadets stayed in billeting and were able to eat in the Dining Facility, where they dined with Airmen to learn about their careers. For the next 5 days, cadets experienced a variety of activities, all tied to the AFJROTC Curriculum. While in Washington, DC, cadets toured the White House, the US Capitol, the Pentagon, DC monuments and museums, and visited the 113th Air Guard's F-16 squadron, the US Army's Old Guard and Arlington National Cemetery, as well as the US Air Force Honor Guard, where cadets learned about drill and ceremony. While in NYC, cadets toured the United Nations, 9-11 Memorial, Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. A highlight of the trip was meeting The Secretary of the Air Force, Honorable Dr. Heather Wilson while walking the Pentagon hallways.



DeLand High School Cadets with Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson

ARIZONA'S OUTSTANDING CADET IS RACHEL HIGGINS!

Desert Ridge High School (AZ-20022) Cadet Rachel Higgins was awarded the prestigious Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) JROTC Silver State (Arizona's Outstanding Cadet) Award & Certificate from Col Ed Boyd, USMC (Ret) at the SAR State Meeting in Casa Grand, AZ on Saturday, May 5th, 2018. Cadet Higgins was nominated by Desert Ridge High School's SASI, Maj Malinowski, and Principal Mike Deignan for her outstanding achievement and leadership. Her nomination advanced from the Palo Verde Chapter to the state level and now will be competing at the National Level for larger scholarships (up to \$4000).

Cadet Higgins is extremely dedicated to JROTC and Desert Ridge High School, both inside and outside the classroom. She maintains a 4.59 GPA and is currently ranked in the top 2% of her class while completing over 100 hours of community service. Not only is she an active Color Guard, Honor Guard, Drill Club, Sabre Team Member, she has also managed our Sports Fitness Challenge Team.



Cadet Rachel Higgins receiving her certificate from Col Ed Boyd

She leads our top Air Force Association StellarXplorers (STEM) team which is best in Arizona (two years in a row) and her AFJROTC Academic Bowl Team tied for 1st in Arizona this year.

Cadet Higgins' Outstanding Cadet nomination was evaluated on the following areas: scholastic achievement, leadership, extra-curricular activities and achievements, and volunteer work. Nominated cadets must be a third-year cadet of a four-year program or second-year cadet of a three-year program. Nominees also must be in the top 10% of their JROTC program and top 25% of their school academically. Three of the four previous Arizona award winners are in commissioning programs such as the Air Force Academy or college ROTC programs, while the 4th is attending ASU on scholarship and also responded to the call to join the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. Cadet Higgins followed the path of her previous school's nominees by taking over command of the cadet corps at a change-of-command ceremony in May. She continues to lead the 100+ cadets in her senior year.

OUTSTANDING

BLUE ANGELS VISIT TERRE HAUTE NORTH VIGO HIGH SCHOOL, YOUNG PILOT

By Sue Loughlin, Tribune-Star

As a pilot with the Blue Angels, Maj. Jeff Mullins is doing what many aspiring aviators only dream of accomplishing.

But as he spoke at Terre Haute North Vigo High School (IN-20011) Friday, among those in the audience was an Air Force Junior ROTC cadet who has earned wings of her own.

Cadet First Lt. Latyshia James, a North Vigo senior, earned her private pilot's license in just 6 1/2 weeks during a training course at Purdue University; she wore her flight suit and wings Friday and has already flown solo.

She was one of only 120 Air Force Junior ROTC cadets around the world, and the only cadet from Indiana, to receive a scholarship — valued at about \$20,000 — from the program's headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama. More than 750 cadets had applied for the 120 scholarships.

To qualify, she had to have a good GPA and she took a test described as "grueling" by Col. Tom Greenlee, who heads up North's Air Force Junior ROTC program along with Josh Hall, chief master sergeant and instructor.

Not everyone who attended the training program, offered at six colleges, earned their private pilot's license. But James did.

"It's just a huge deal," Greenlee said. "We're very proud of her. We'll be talking to her about maybe being a pilot physician" in the Air Force, he said.

Even Mullins, the Blue Angel who will participate in breathtaking flight demonstrations this weekend at the Terre Haute Air Show, praised her accomplishment. "It's very impressive," he said. "The fact you were able to do it [earn her private pilot's license] in such a short amount of time is pretty incredible. Generally it takes people a lot longer."

Being able to learn that quickly "is one of the most challenging things in the military, and you were obviously able to accomplish that this summer. It's really cool to see," he told James after he had spoken to Air Force Junior ROTC cadets and other students in the North Vigo auditorium.

Could she be a future U.S. Navy Blue Angel? "She's going into the Air Force, probably," Mullins said. The U.S. Air Force has its own air demonstration squadron, the Thunderbirds.

He told James, "I'm sure you have the mentality and the ability to succeed in the military" as a pilot, based on her track record of success so far.

The most important attributes in becoming a military pilot are learning quickly, being humble — and "learning from every mistake you make," he told her.

In describing her experience at Purdue, James said, "We ate, slept and breathed aviation. ... I wouldn't trade it. It was such a great experience." She completed the eight-week course in 6 1/2 weeks.

She's already made multiple solo flights, including from Purdue to Terre Haute and back.

The most memorable part of the course for her was when an instructor "pulled zero G's on us. It was like we were in outer space ... and things floated up for a second." By zero G's,

she meant weightless flight or zero gravity.

Asked if she'd like to be a Blue Angel, she said, "I'd have to think about that. I kind of want to go into the Air Force for aviation and medical."

Graduates of the Flight Academy Scholarship Program who earned their private pilot license do not incur a military commitment to the Air Force or other branch of service.

In his talk to the North Vigo audience, Mullins — who is in the U.S. Marine Corps — encouraged students to "be the best version of themselves they can be and chase their dreams."

He told them to take ownership of their mistakes and learn from them, and also to have the dedication, determination and grit to achieve success.



This Patriot is a pilot: Terre Haute North Vigo High School Senior Latyshia James, center, a 1st Lt in the North JROTC, poses for a photo with U.S. Navy Yeoman 2nd Class Aliyah Maydwell and United States Marine Corps Maj. Jeff Mullins on Friday at the school. James recently completed an aviation course at Purdue University and has been awarded a scholarship. Credit: Tribune-Star/Joseph C. Garza

http://www.tribstar.com/news/local_news/blue-angels-visit-th-north-young-pilot/article_1e427bfd-4ffa-551f-9e7b-a9be256d9ff4.html

**By C/Lt Col Bryan Rodriguez, Commander,
NY-20151 John Adams High School**

My name is C/Lt Col Bryan Rodriguez and from Queens, New York. Where I live is not a very good area. There are not many people that have been successful from this place called Far Rockaway. I didn't want to go to my zoned school because it was a bad school, so I got enrolled to John Adams High School. My AFJROTC unit was founded in 2015 when I was a sophomore. During my freshman and sophomore year I struggled with academics. I was cutting class with my friends, getting into fights, I even got suspended once. Most of my peers either got locked up or dropped out of school. Sophomore year I found out about the JROTC program. One early morning, Col Licata (my SASI) approached me when I was with a group of my friends and he told me that there was going to be a JROTC unit starting in the school. I wanted to join because my friend from Thomas Jefferson High School was in Marine JROTC. The first time I saw him in his uniform I thought he looked pretty cool. For me being in JROTC

was a challenge. It was a challenge because I knew I had to get my



act together but I just couldn't, I was acting a fool with my friends and being disrespectful. I started off as a C/AB with the position of personnel technician. I started being more involved in the program, coming after school every now and then working on personnel work I got promoted to a C/SrA. I was very happy and excited because I was the only one in my detachment that got promoted first. During the ending of my sophomore year I had gotten my act together and knew and promised myself I wasn't going to go back to my old ways. Throughout the year I progressed and became a C/MSgt and the Superintendent for Personnel. Right then and there I knew I was a part of something. JROTC wasn't only my family but it was also my home. In the fall of my Senior Year, MSgt Robles (my ASI) told the drill team that we needed someone to lead the drill team. I was scared but tried my best and was selected as Drill Team Commander. The team went on to two drill meets and won two first-place trophies. After the drill season, the hardest thing I've probably done

in JROTC was apply to be Corps Commander for my unit. It was hard for me because I wasn't being confident in myself

and I thought to myself that I couldn't do it. The Colonel once told me that CAN'T is not a word. So I thought to myself I would never know if I don't try. After a long application period, I got nominated to be Corps Commander. I would never forget that day I was very emotional and started to cry. If it was never for the ASI or my SASI I would've probably dropped out of school just like the rest of my friends. I am thankful for the person I am now and what JROTC changed me into.

JROTC SAVED MY LIFE.

JROTC SAVED MY LIFE

SPANGDAHLEM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS

By Col Donald N. Edmands, Jr. USAF (RET), June 17, 2018

Three AFJROTC students in Germany were presented awards by local community organizations. Col (Ret) Don Edmands, Jr., representing American Legion Post 256 Tellico Lake and the Hiwassee Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, recently flew to Europe to present the awards. Edmands participated in a Spangdahlem High School (GR-083) Annual Awards day, presenting medals to the students.

Cadet DeAndre Gray received the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Medal. Gray, who calls Hahira, Georgia home, was the Squadron's Personnel Officer for the past year. His father is MSgt Daniel Gray with the 52nd Fighter Wing Maintenance Group. Gray was promoted to Cadet Command Chief at the ceremonies for the coming school year.

Cadet Jordan Soles was awarded the American Legion General Military Excellence Medal. Soles was Commander of the Corps for the past year. He plans to attend the AFROTC Flight Academy at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. His father is planning to retire from the Air Force and return home to Florida.

Cadet Andres Mercado was awarded the Sons of the American Revolution Bronze RCTC Medal. Mercado was promoted to Squadron Commander and Aviation Chief for the coming school year. His father, SSgt Andrew Mercado, is with the 52nd Fighter Wing Maintenance Group. His family calls Texas home.

Ceremonies were conducted at a new location this year as the high school has moved from Bitburg AFB to Spangdahlem AFB, Germany. The students are attending a school run by the Department of Defense for dependent children of service members serving overseas.

Students presented medals in Germany by local organizations. (L-R) Col Mark Sullivan USAF (Ret), SASI, Spangdahlem High School; Cadet DeAndre Gray; Cadet Jordan Soles; Cadet Andres Mercado; Col Don Edmands, Jr., USAF (Ret) of Vonore.



TX-956 CADET EARNS GOLD PRESIDENTIAL FITNESS AWARD

TX-956 Cadet Jacob Guerra earned the Gold Presidential Fitness Award for the 2017-2018 school year, the first Gold-level achievement in the unit's history. Additionally, Cadet Guerra has previously received two Silver-level Presidential Fitness awards and three consecutive years as the Most Physically Fit Cadet. Congratulation Cadet Guerra...leading the way!



Col(ret) Joe Romano, Coatesville resident and the Deputy Director, Sensitive Activities Office sharing his lessons on leadership

COATESVILLE CADETS VISIT PENTAGON

Cadets from Coatesville High School, Coatesville, PA, (PA-771) visited the Pentagon Aug 22 and met with the Deputy Air Force Administrative Assistant, Mr. Jeffery Shelton, the Director for Air Force Sensitive Activities, Mr. Russ Wyler, staff officers and noncommissioned officers to share their perspective on leadership. Along with their high school Principal, Brian Chengler, and their instructor Master Sgt Christopher Sidoli, the six cadets toured the Pentagon and enjoyed lunch in none other than the Air Force Secretary's dining room. Over lunch they discussed management expectations, citizenship, personal responsibility, character, and self-discipline. This event captured the AF JROTC motto: "Building Better Citizens for America."



D.W. Daniel seniors, from left; Alexander Fitzgerald, Lauren Hazlett, Ellen Harcum, and Daniel Perry prepare for life after high school graduation in Central on Tuesday. Hazlett will join the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs with classmates Perry, and Fitzgerald while Harcum has an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Rhode Island. (Photo: Ken Ruinard/Independent Mail)

FOUR DANIEL HIGH JROTC SENIORS ARE HEADED TO MILITARY ACADEMIES

Allison Wells, Special to the Independent Mail Published 9:00 a.m. ET May 7, 2018 | Updated 9:37 p.m. ET May 7, 2018

CENTRAL — It's quite an honor for a graduating high school senior to be appointed to one of the main military academies, and this year, Daniel High School (SC-941) has four such honorees. Alex Fitzgerald and Lauren Hazlett will be going straight to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, this summer. Classmate Daniel Perry will be attending the Air Force Academy Preparatory School, and Ellen Harcum will attend the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island. All four leave this summer for their appointments.

Daniel's JROTC instructor CMSgt Todd Preisch said he has never heard of four graduating seniors receiving appointments from the same school, and he said the last time a Daniel student received an appointment was in 2011. "We only have 20 students in this (JROTC) senior class, so this is very impressive," Preisch said. Harcum and Perry will go to academy prep schools for one year to give them additional time to prepare for the actual academies and to learn additional skills they needed to improve. The Air Force Academy receives more than 12,000 applications each year, according to its website. For the class of 2017, only 1,190 were admitted, and of those, fewer than 23 percent were female.

According to Naval Academy Preparatory School services director Mark Donahue, only 250 appointments are given to the prep school, and each student's education is completely free if he or she signs a five-year commitment to the U.S. Navy after the sophomore year. "Of the 250, about 210 will go on to the academy in Annapolis," Donahue noted. The specialized appointments for the four students are estimated to have a combined worth of about \$2 million. With their commitments to their respective branches, their education will be free. Both Perry and Fitzgerald hope to specialize in cyber security at the Air Force Academy. According to Fitzgerald, cyber security is primarily focused on how to fight against viruses and malware on computer networks. He said the academy has the best program in the country. Hazlett is undecided about what she wants to study, but said she is leaning toward mechanical engineering. Her long-term goal is to work at NASA. Harcum, who will be going to the Naval prep school, said she hopes to study nuclear engineering and work on a submarine in the future.

All four students were in the JROTC at Daniel for their entire high school careers. They all also were part of the high school band. The students are quick to credit their instructors at Daniel, Preisch and Maj. Tom Childress, for keeping them on their toes and helping them achieve their current successes. "We've had a great support system, especially Chief and Major. They've been really helpful," Perry said. Harcum said the entire staff at Daniel High School has helped the students prepare for this step in their lives and has encouraged them to explore their interests.

Hazlett and Fitzgerald will depart for Colorado Springs at the end of June. Perry will join them in Colorado in mid-July. Harcum will make the move to Rhode Island at the end of July.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

We require your help in developing a quality AFJROTC newsletter product.

ARTICLES - Please submit in a Word document with pictures attached separately, not embedded in document.

AUTHOR(S) - Please clearly identify the author(s) of the articles. (and titles too)

PICTURES - Cell phone pictures require much lengthier editing techniques to appear as quality photos ... and sometimes it is not possible to correct them. Please try to not submit cell phone pictures. Hi-resolution photos are needed.

PICTURE RELEASES - Ensure each picture has a parental signed release form.

PICTURE CAPTIONS - We absolutely would love to be able to identify the action in the photos with the identities of those involved. However, many pictures are not always clearly identified with this information.



The mission of AFJROTC is to "Develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community."

The objectives of JROTC are to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship, promote community service, instill ideals of responsibility, character, and self-discipline, and provide instruction in air and space fundamentals.

The AFJROTC program is grounded in the Air Force core values of "integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do."