Introducing Lieutenant Colonel Sanders

By: Valen Booker and Robert Repass

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Sanders was born and raised in Michigan. In 1992, he moved to Colorado Springs where he met his wife Linda before Officer Training School (OTS). He first became interested in the Air Force after discussing with retirees the benefits of serving as an officer which prompted him to apply for OTS. Twenty-one years has passed since his wedding and commissioning which are only two days apart from each other. Since then, he has had various civil engineering projects and two daughters named Marissa and Maya who are in 10th and 3rd grade to keep him busy. Prior to becoming the Commander of Detachment 592, he served as a Civil Engineer Officer. This included maintaining and building facilities in bases for the Air Force. These projects could range from infrastructure, power, water, electric, environmental, renovations, and completely new construction. The fire department and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) or bomb squadron works for the civil engineers which is interesting in regards to Lieutenant Colonel Sanders' job.

After Cadet Booker was done asking Lieutenant Colonel Sanders her questions, it was my chance to ask him some questions the detachment might want to know. I started off with the basic question “what is your favorite color?” Lieutenant Colonel Sanders responded immediately and without hesitation “red”. Preceding that question I asked “What is his favorite food?” He paused for just a second and said “Thai”. Lieutenant Colonel Sanders explained to me that while being stationed in Osan, Korea there was a town off base that essentially catered to US military personal. In this town there were three Thai restaurants that he would go to with his family which had the best food he has ever tasted; thus making his favorite food Thai.
In the first lead lab I remember Lt. Colonel Sanders giving his introduction and hearing about the places he's been stationed all over the world. So the next question I asked was "what was your favorite stationing?" Lt. Colonel Sanders answered with "Hawaii." With the excellent weather and beaches no need to explain that response. However, my follow-up question would require just a little more thought. I asked "if you could be stationed anywhere in the world regardless if there is an Air Force Base there, where would you choose to be stationed?" Lt. Colonel Sanders thought for a few seconds and responded with "somewhere in the Rocky Mountains." This answer correlates with his hobbies. Lt. Colonel Sanders would enjoy being closer to an area with hiking, mountain biking, rock climbing, and skiing. Lt. Colonel Sanders also enjoys spending time with his family. He actively enjoys coaching his two daughters in sports, hanging out with his family, and traveling as a family.

It finally came down to the time where I would have to ask Lt. Colonel Sanders my last few questions. I asked "What is your favorite Aircraft. He was torn between three aircraft: F-117 Stealth Fighter, F16 Fighting Falcon, and the C-17 Globe Master. Having helped work with a lot of these planes the defining thought that made the F16 standout was that he actually rode in one in Misawa Japan. The Final Question I asked was: "If you could switch to any other career in the Air Force what would it be?" He said pilot for his final answer followed with "I'm a little jealous of those guys." Thank you for reading this article and I hoped you enjoyed the questions and responses as much as myself and Cadet Booker did.

An Interview with the Sergeants

By: Eric Overton

This week in the Goldrush's Office Chat, we decided to interview our newest Cadre members. In Office Chat each month we will grab someone's office (hopefully it is not in use) and interview the Detachment's most interesting Cadre, Staff, and Cadets. In this month's Special Back to School Edition, I was given the distinct privilege to interview our very own Technical Sergeant Johnson and Staff Sergeant Chaney with the intent of getting to know them better.

SSgt. Chaney:

Where were you born/ raised? "I was a military brat, born in Bitburg, Germany. Father was in the military, mother got out after she became pregnant. I grew up everywhere, but primarily on the West Coast in Washington State, Fairchild Air Force Base."

What made you want to join the Air Force? "My Father, mom, and uncle were in the Air Force, I was always a little interested in the Air Force. My Father would take me to work and I loved the close nit feel of the people in it. Also, I loved to travel and the 'real real' reason was to get out of Washington. It was time to go."

How long have you been in the AF? "11 years"

What are your current and past careers in the Air Force? "I came in as a 3A0X1 (Information Manager), five years in changed to 3A1X1 (Administrator). This is not the same as the Personnel Career Field. Administration handles military forms, paperwork, and websites."

Where have you been stationed? "First was Signal Base Hill, then an Army Base: Fort Huachuca, then Mississippi, Sheppard AFB, Turkey, Denver, lastly I was deployed to Florida and Qatar before arriving at Detachment 592."

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? "Well I'm a mom, so I have no hobbies. But, I love making things, I'm an artsy person, I love spending time with my family and being outside. I love music; I will listen to any type of music except country."
Which base was your favorite? “I had a really interesting time in Denver...the people is what made it so great. I had a great Wing Commander and the Airmen below me were amazing. I am big on morale and the kind we had in the office was awesome. One of the best moves I’ve ever made.”

If you could be stationed anywhere in the world, regardless if there was a base there, where would it be? “This is going to sound silly, but I would like to be stationed in Atlanta or near Atlanta. It’s on the East Coast and it is centrally located to where I can visit everyone important to me within a few hours.”

Do you have any family? “My stepmom stayed in the Air Force and my Father got out, and that is why we stayed on the West Coast. I have a younger brother. I met my husband when I was working at CE at Sheppard Air Force Base. My husband was an airman at the time; he came to his in-processing. That day I had to leave, but he saw me and knew he wanted to talk to me. He would come back and ‘lose his hat’ just so he could come speak to me. We have been inseparable since then and have been married 10 years in February. I have two little girls, Naomi is 6 and Olivia is 2.”

What is your favorite type of food? “I love Seafood, fresh seafood. My husband is from Alabama, so whenever we visit I eat crawfish and shrimp. I also love dark chocolate.”

What is your favorite color? “Purple, always been my favorite color and I love Donatello. He’s purple, but I love the Ninja Turtles since I saw the original movie when I was a kid with my Father. It was awesome.”

Do you have any Pets? “No. I HATE animals. I just don’t like them, growing up we had a dog that didn’t really like me, so I have disliked them since then.”

Lastly, what are your favorite sports/sports teams? “Alabama Roll Tide, I like to represent. I liked the ’89 Pistons with Isaiah Thomas and Bill Laimbeer. I also liked the Denver Broncos until they let go of Tim Tebow. So, I’m glad they lost the Superbowl. I also love the Carolina Panthers. I would love to get tickets to a home game.”

T Sgt. Johnson

Where were you born/ grow up? “Born in Honolulu, Hawaii. I was an Army Brat. Moved around for a little bit, but when my mother got out we moved to Beaufort, NC in the Outer Banks.”

What made you want to join the Air Force? “After going to community college in St. Louis I moved to Augusta, Georgia with my Dad to his next assignment. I talked to some recruiters and my Dad actually pushed me towards the Air Force because he knew it would be a better fit for me than the Army. I never thought I would stay in this long, but I decided to make a career out of it.”

How long have you been in the Air Force? “17 years”

What are your current and past careers in the Air Force? “I have been Personnel the whole time. I wasn’t sure exactly what I wanted to do when I came in, but, I scored high on the ASVAB on that side. So, I decided to stay with Personnel.”

Where have you been stationed? “I started in Vance AFB for six years, which is in the middle of nowhere. I couldn’t get anywhere else until I applied for a Special Duty Assignment. I was so happy to leave and go to the Pentagon. After the Pentagon I went to AFCC and after my time there I worked at the Total Force Service Center. Then I was deployed to Qatar and afterwards came back to the States and was then assigned to Detachment 592.”

Has there been a learning curve since coming to Detachment 592? “Sometimes you don’t really realize the work and challenges if you have never worked in the ROTC Program. Normally, Personnel would not handle paychecks, so that is something new. There are a lot of things that we wouldn’t really do at a normal base. But, honestly, it is really fulfilling to see the cadets’ growth that they are going to have, and I like talking with cadets and hearing their person experiences of the program.”

What is your favorite aircraft and Why? “I would have to take it back when I was stationed at a flying squadron with the T-38. I am partial to that plane since I spent six years at Vance.”

Do you have any family? “Yes I have a son who just entered high school.”
What are some aspects you have learned since joining the Air Force? "Well, you should always take care of your enlisted. You should also never 'burn your bridges,' always treat everyone with the same level of respect; since, you never know later on if you are going to work with these people. It is a small Air Force. When I worked in the Evaluations Office, I would actually see Sgt. Patterson from time to time in the same office. Then several years later she emailed me when I was about to take over her position here and she was able to help me out. You just really don't know; it is just a really small world."

If you could be stationed anywhere in the world, regardless if there was a base there, where would it be? "I would like to go back to Hawaii. It was somewhere I always wanted to be stationed, but never was able to get it. I would like to go because I was born there and would like to show my son and it is so beautiful there."

What is your favorite color? "I like Carolina Blue, not because of the Tarheels, but because I just love that color."

What is your favorite kind of food? "There is not much I don't eat, there is very few, but I like Mexican food. I prefer it spicy. Thai food and especially Thai Tea is very good too."

What are your hobbies? "I like shopping, which is more of a sport. I enjoy hanging out with my son. But generally I like being out and about. I also love music; it is not unusual for me to play music in my office. I like any genre, hip hop or rap, but it also depends on my mood. So, sometimes I will play contemporary gospel to build me back up."

Summary
At the end of each interview, I asked TSgt. Johnson and SSgt. Chaney if there is anything that they would like to tell cadets who need to talk to them. SSgt. Chaney replied that "they are here for the cadets and that their doors are always open." She also said that "we are always here for you whenever you need something." TSgt. Johnson replied that everyone should take their cadet experience as a time growth and to stay motivated. If you need anything, I am here, do not be afraid to come talk to us."

Pershing Rifles
By: Cole Garde

The UNCC Pershing Rifles, company Z-4, has had a very successful summer and an exciting upcoming schedule. We were pleased to say that all members that attended either field training or LDAC (army) graduated and 4 of 5 graduated top 3rd. Various high leadership positions are held within the cadet corps including the Armies Battalion Commander and 2nd in command. We are pleased to have a great turnout with 11 candidates in training for the year. We have also been invited to be judges at 2 upcoming drill comps on Oct. 4 and the Carowinds event in May. February 7th is the date we are hosting our own drill competition. UNCC football and basketball, walk for the cure, monster jam, and other Charlotte activities have already scheduled us for color guard performances.
"Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid only by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing." - Denis Waitley

"Coming back from field training was an amazing feeling. It was a great experience but I would never want to go through it again. I made many friends there that I still keep in contact with and also many great memories. At field training you learn so much about yourself; the good and the bad. It is something that I hope all of our GMC get to experience."

- Cadet Captain McSwain
Arnold Air Society

By: John Jensen

Arnold Air Society (AAS) is an honorary service organization dedicated to aid the development of effective Air Force Officers. The Neil A. Armstrong Squadron at UNC Charlotte has a long tradition of a servant heart and solidarity among its members and fall 2014 is no different. This semester AAS hosted a fundraiser at Jason’s Deli and will be supporting our annual 26th Drill Comp. with food and refreshments. The squadron is also proud to help and support Shining Hope Farms later this semester with their amazing work with Hippotherapy. Our squadron always has new and exciting things going on that continue to help the community as well as provide more opportunities for cadets to train as officer candidates.

Memorial Run

By: Randy Carey

On Thursday, September 11 the 49er detachment got together for a series of warrior runs in remembrance of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Cadet Alexander organized the event, which included multiple runs around the University campus including both cadets in physical training uniforms and two cadets at the front of the formation carrying the American flag in the POW/MIA flag. The all-day event was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the campus our detachments love and gratitude to both the past and current service members of the United States military. It also acted as an excellent recruiting device to show off to the campus how sharp a well-disciplined formation of cadets can look while running and calling out cadences. Cadet Jensen specifically led the cadences during the Wing Run at Lead Lab, all of which were quite appropriate to the memorial run.

Especially in light of the currently escalating situation with ISIS in Iraq, the run served to remind us of the continued resolve to protect and defend our people and freedom that our military has and will always hold. I can certainly speak for the rest of the detachment when I say that it was an honor to run behind such powerful symbols and call out, at the top of our lungs, patriotic lyrics echoing the sacrifices of so many good men and women.