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Dining In Fall 2014

By Anthony Brenes

AFROTC Det. 592 held its annual Combat Dining In on Thursday November 13, 2014. The event entailed both an activity portion consisting of flight competitions and a formal dinner. Flight competitions included flight videos, uniform modifications, tug of war, and drill. At the conclusion, the winning flights were allowed to select POC and Cadre members to pie. The event effectively boosted the comradery and moral between cadets and provided a catalyst for friendly rivalry. During the dinner portion of the evening, cadets enjoyed a barbeque dinner, and some were required to visit the formidable grog bowl. Major Walker from the Army ROTC Battalion was the guest speaker and spoke of his experiences while serving in the Army and the qualities of leadership all officers must hold.

The custom of Dining In is an old tradition and represents an important aspect of Air Force social life. Its purpose is to display how ceremony and tradition play a role in the Air Force unit. It boosts morale and *esprit de corps*, and allows members of all grades to build friendships and working relationships. Planning such an event takes a lot of preparation. Organizing this year's Dining In began in August, and the next several months consisted of selecting a location and catering, confirming a guest speaker, planning activities, and creating decorations. As the officer responsible for planning Dining In, I would like to thank the Cadre and Cadets within the wing who assisted me in planning and executing the event. Dining In would not have been successful without all of their help.



Dining In Ceremony

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First, a big “Thank You” to Cadet Booker for allowing me the opportunity to write to the cadets of Detachment 592. I’ve been asked to tell a little bit about life in the Air Force after the cadet years (Det 592 C/O 2007) and my career thus far. I have to state that my experience is seen through the eyes of an Air Battle Manager (ABM) which does include aircrew duties. Life is pretty great – steady paycheck, an interesting, dynamic job, and always learning. Aircrew life requires a few years of study once you come on active duty, so anticipate your primary job being a student and learning how the Air Force does business. This is different from non-flyers where they will quickly be put into supervisory roles. While fulfilling your responsibilities to the best of your ability you’ll have to keep some things in minds – the biggest of which is balancing your goals in family, career, and personal areas. Since I’ve come in there has been pressure to obtain an advanced degree (a Masters if not already possessed); recent actions in the Air Force have removed it from promotion consideration for O-4, but it’s still smart to get it done as early as you can. Work-life can be a roller coaster from mission planning the entire day prior to a sortie to running a shop/flight in order to meet unit suspenses and tending to personnel.

As an ABM I also have to constantly keep ready in training requirements and up to date in doctrinal and practical military tactics (essentially balancing multiple jobs). I want to emphasize being ready to handle the people entrusted to you. You’ll have more than a supervisor role as you’ll learn in your classes; you’ll have to deal with families, life events, assist in career decisions, and be a constant motivator as a leader (One difficult situation I’ve experienced is supporting one of my Subject Matter Experts who had become bedridden while tending to his wife who herself was immersed in a battle with cancer (happy ending by the way)). Prepare yourself to go through the best and worst of times with the men and women you’ll serve with – because at the end of the day it is all about people and they are the ones that get the mission done. Air Force life is fast-paced and definitely worth the effort required and the extra that you’ll give.

Now, I can go into the “all-about-me” part - some highlights from my deployments in the Air Force. I’ve had some great adventures with my previous airframe, the E-3B/C Sentry (AWACS). I was fortunate to support the beginning of Operation Odyssey Dawn/Unified Protector and the very end of Unified Protector (2011 NATO Operation in Libya). I consider this a major highlight because it is an extremely rare opportunity to operate in an expeditionary capacity; unlike the environments where our forces have been built up for years. I was able to witness firsthand the execution of the AF capabilities (Air and Space Superiority, Global Attack, etc) and actively preserve humanitarian operations while ensuring completion of the United Nations Security Council resolutions. I have deployed to South Korea to support one of the largest exercises in the world, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, working in partnership with the Republic of Korea Air Force, nothing like deploying to a first world country (even if I did sleep on a cot in an open bay after long shifts)! I even had the opportunity to “deploy” to Pittsburgh, PA, to support NORAD operations here in the US. A flyer’s career is rarely all flying; I have just finished a tour in Germany in support of

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Tactical Air Control Parties, supporting Forward Air Controllers or Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTACs, the Airmen embedded with ground forces calling in air strikes). From Germany I was able to support a multi-national FAC/JTAC exercise on the island of Corsica in France, as well as partake in quite a few multi-national close air support exercises involving many armies and air forces. The one thing I can say is that once you are qualified to deploy - always be ready. You'll never know when the phone call will come in the middle of the night telling you to process the deployment line in the morning. I couldn't cover everything so I've only entertained the highlights. If there are questions please pass them on to Cadet Booker.

Thanks! - Capt Joe Hernandez, Robins AFB, GA.



Flight Competitions

By James Landen

This semester's Flight Olympics were held on the 6th of November. Cadets were given the opportunity to compete in several events throughout the day in order to score points for their respective flight. Events included a Flight Competition at PT that morning, followed by an Ultimate Frisbee tournament and a facial recognition test for both GMC and POC. The Olympics concluded at Lead Lab with the final two competitions consisting of an obstacle course and a pie-eating contest. Congratulations to Delta Flight, who won a score of 7,227 points. Alpha finished second with 7,000 points, then Bravo with 6,614 points, and Charlie with 5,472 points. Flight Olympics occur once a semester so be prepared to represent your Flight in the spring!

GMC Take-Over Week

By Cianni Dudley

Being Wing Commander during GMC Takeover Week was an awesome learning experience and a great opportunity for me. The cadets that I chose to work with were very cooperative, understanding, and innovative. In our initial meeting everyone came up with great ideas for us to execute throughout the upcoming week. There were a few minor set-backs and head butting, but as a team we were all able to overcome these obstacles in order to have a maneuverable week.

My favorite part of the week was Leadership Lab. I enjoyed the faces of the POC when I announced a pop quiz. Also, GMC seemed to enjoy learning about road guard procedures in an innovative way, so I felt like my job was done properly. Personally, I was able to learn the behind the scenes planning action of every week. Being in charge of the entire wing was exciting and helped me learn what I am good at for future references within ROTC.

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When Cadets Lane and DeMasi were asked what they would like to see in the detachment as the Cadet Wing Commander for Spring 2015, this is what they had to say:

Whether I become the next wing commander or not, the one thing I want to see more than anything else is participation. I don't mean just in lead lab or PT either, I mean in all detachment activities, from base visits and shadow days to coming out and supporting our intramural teams. In the past I could walk into the detachment and see multiple people just hanging out in the lounge between classes on Monday and Wednesday, what happened to that? We used to have softball games where we had to overtake the other team's bleachers because ours were full. I understand everyone has homework and work and we never expect anyone to be at everything that goes on, but it seems like I see the same people at all the events. It creates a much more enjoyable atmosphere when everyone knows each other but that only way to do that is by interaction outside of the mandatory events. If you're serious about going into the Air Force then you're stuck here for quite some time so why not enjoy yourselves while you're at it?

- Spencer Lane

Everyone's goal in this detachment is to become an officer in the United States Air Force. If I become wing commander, I will do everything that I can to help make this happen for each and every cadet. This Spring will be a big semester for a lot of people. The 100s are getting ready for FTP. The 200s are preparing for EA boards and Field Training. The POC are getting ready for rated boards and commissioning. My goal is to focus on getting everyone ready for what's in store for them in their future.

- Michael DeMasi



Lead Lab activities during GMC take-over week



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Office Chat

By Eric Overton

In this week's special end-of-the-semester edition of the *Office Chat*, I sat down and interviewed our intrepid Wing Commander: Ms. Kailey Filter. Apart from being a nursing major, Levine and Air Force Scholar, Khaleesi, and formerly the purveyor of her own fan club, she has faithfully served as our Wing Commander for the past semester and was able to share a few words with us.

Where were you born/ where have you grown up?

"I was born in Charlotte, North Carolina and I grew up in Matthews/Weddington, North Carolina. There was nothing out there; my parents often recount how they lived in 'the middle of nowhere' before I was born. If you are ever driving in Pineville, the hospital across from Carolina Place Mall is where I was born."

Do you have any family?

"My parents have both been employed in the Union County Public School System. My mom is a calculus teacher and my dad works in the county offices. I have two older brothers. Zachary is five years older and Garret is three years older. They use to beat me up as a small child. Unfortunately, one day they took a plastic bin, put me inside and sat on it. But, my mom has told me that 'I'm her favorite,' so, that's all that really matters."

What made you want to join the Air Force?

"I started looking into the Air Force Academy when I was looking for options to pay for school. My school liaison suggested that I apply for both the ROTC Scholarship and the Academy. However, I was reluctant to apply for the scholarship because I didn't want to be in ROTC and I had my heart set on the Academy. However, I decided to apply for both, and I got into both, and was able to choose. So, I came to Charlotte and fell in love with it and everything else. I love UNCC and Detachment 592."

What career are you going to have in the Air Force?

"Ideally I want to be the Surgeon General of the Air Force. By way of being either a Flight Nurse, Flight Surgeon, or Nurse Practitioner. Any of those careers would be cool."

If you could be stationed anywhere in the world, regardless if there was a base there, where would that be?

"The Joint Naval Air Station in Key West. I love Key West; I love eating lobster and seafood, so it is a perfect place for me."

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What are your hobbies/what do you enjoy doing?

“I like being active, via running when I’m not tired. Napping and sleeping are enjoyable. Cuddling is also pretty fun. I like cooking and sampling different culinary palates as well as fine wines. However, I mostly enjoy baking sweets because people like sweets and I like to see smiles on their faces.”

What is on your Christmas list?

“I would like a new stethoscope, a handgun, a sky diving trip, the movie *Pride and Prejudice* (with Kiera Knightly), and a dinner at Joe’s Crabshack.”

What is your favorite color?

“It is a tie between lime green and purple. But, usually purple wins. I don’t know why, but, a plum shade of purple just makes me happy. If I was to ever have a wedding, those would be the colors.”

What is your favorite food?

“I like food and I like lobster, but right now, I really have a hankering for crab. I would like to go to Joe’s Crabshack and eat some king crab with seasoning (butter not needed). That would be really great. If I had to choose favorites it would be crab, shrimp, and then lobster. However, sometimes I like chicken parmesan best; so as you can see, it often switches around.”

What is your favorite aircraft and why?

“Whichever kind that carries medical personnel would probably be my favorite. Perhaps a C-130 or C-17. But honestly, I have no idea, so I’m going to choose a hot air balloon. I have never been in one, but it is something I want to do.”

What is one aspect that you would like cadets to know that would help them be better humans and or cadets?

“If you are going to do something, do it and give it your all. I know it sounds so cliché, but you should have no regrets. If you set your mind to something, you need to go hard in the paint.”

“You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated” - Maya Angelou