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Meet the Commander

This past summer we welcomed a new commander to our Detachment, Lieutenant Colonel Nicole L Capozzi. Lt Col Capozzi joined the Air Force in 2000, by commissioning through the United States Air Force Academy.

Lt Col Capozzi joined the Air Force because she never wanted others to do something she wasn’t prepared to do herself. She also wanted to become an astronaut and thought the Air Force was the best path to get the opportunity to do so.

Lt Col Capozzi has had many rewarding moments during her Air Force career, but she notes one of the best as when she was able to see her training as an Air Battle Manager pay-off while she was deployed to Iraq. The training allowed her to give support to the Army on the ground.

Lt Col Capozzi has some advice for those who wish to apply for a rated career field (Air Battle Manager, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Pilot, Pilot and Combat Systems Officer). The Commander says, “Make sure you are focusing on your grades because they need to be pretty high, make sure your PT test score is high, you should be involved in cadet activities, and a technical major helps.” Lt Col Capozzi also notes that it is not like Top Gun and one shouldn’t expect that.

Lt Col Capozzi decided to apply to become a Detachment Commander because she wanted to give back to cadets. Lt Col Capozzi looks back at her time at the Air Force Academy and remembers all those who shaped her cadet experience and wants to play a part in that. Lt Col Capozzi is looking forward to seeing every cadet grow and
to meet their potential regardless of whether they commission or not. Lt Col Capozzi also says that she is learning as much from us as we are from her.

Lt Col Capozzi wants any prospective or current cadet to know that the smaller size of the Detachment is a benefit, because the Cadre get the opportunity to craft a more personalized approach to each cadet. The Cadre gets to know the cadets on a personal level and form a good mentor relationship. Cadets should also not fret if they don’t know what they want to do because there is a good chance that what you want to do will change. Lt Col Capozzi wants anyone who is interested in joining our Detachment to know that the Cadre will be happy to talk with you if you reach out.

What is Field Training?

This last summer, 7 outstanding cadets from Detachment 255 were selected to go to Field Training: Cadets Brown, Gaziano, Haman, Kordick, Moore, Smith and Tallon.

Field Training is a 14-day long program at Maxwell Air Force Base designed to evaluate cadets on the skills they’ve learned in ROTC and determine whether they will continue in the program as members of the POC (Professional Officer Corps), putting them one step closer to becoming an Air Force Officer.

Field Training is split between two locations to evaluate different competencies required by the Air Force. Part of Field Training is located at Maxwell Air Force Base and the other part, a mock deployed environment, is at Vigilant Warrior training site near Titus, Alabama.

While going through Field Training, cadets face many challenges. Cadets are put under the constant stress of evaluation. That experience taught cadets one of the
most valuable leadership lessons. Cadet Michael Smith describes this lesson: “An important lesson I learned from it was to help your own...look out for each other and take care of your people.”

All 7 cadets graduated Field Training and are POC. They are already preparing the sophomore cadets for their own field training experience.

**ISU-Iowa Flag Football**

Every year cadets from Air Force ROTC Detachments at The University of Iowa and Iowa State University meet to play a friendly game of flag football the weekend of the annual football game. This year was no different, as Iowa battled it out against our in-state foes. Alas, we were not able to keep up with the cadets of Detachment 250. The final score was 18-7 in favor of the Cyclones. The loss happened after last year’s Hawkeye upset victory. Cadets went into the game this year expecting no different a result than the glory we earned last year.

After the well-fought game, cadets were able to enjoy a potluck and make good conversation with cadets from Iowa State. This is a true testament to the common goal we all share of serving our country in the finest Air Force this world has ever seen. Our two detachments continue to grow closer together and form a bond that will help us to develop as better cadets and future airmen.

We’re looking forward to seeing the cadets of Iowa State on the field again next year in Ames and taking back the crown of the best AFROTC flag football team in Iowa.