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Fall 2016

Although it may not feel like it, winter is coming. Luckily we are prepared with our family, here at Detachment 255. We hope you are all doing well as the fall semester concludes. In this issue of the Flight Line we have interviews with the 300s who have returned from Field Training at JFTC (Joint Force Training Center Camp Shelby, MS) and Maxwell AFB, AL. We have an interview with our fall 2016 Wing Commander, C/Pagano, who tells us of her time as a CTA (Cadet Training Assistant) at Field Training. We’ll also discuss our Physical Fitness Assessment that took place on October 13th as well as a debrief of Combat Dining In. Finally we will have a brief overview of our detachment awards (Cadet of the Month, and Cyclone).
**Post Field Training Interviews**

C/ Sanchez

**Q: Was field training what you expected it to be?**
A: Not at all. I knew it would be regimented and I believed I was prepared, but once you get thrown into a stressful environment, it’s adapt and swim or sink. Definitely a challenging experience but immensely great.

**Q: Did you make any friends that you will remain in contact with?**
A: Both my flight and squadron have group chats now, and I joke with them and talk to them as if FT never ended. I have friends all over the country at different schools who I can go to for help.

**Q: Is there anything you will miss about being there?**
A: The food and always being occupied.

**Q: Would you return as a CTA?**
A: I would return to Camp Shelby but not Maxwell if selected.

**Q: What did you learn from your experience there?**
A: You learn a lot about yourself and your ability to interact with others. Followership becomes key and is one of the most valuable things I picked up on while there.
C/Sanchez Continued
Q: Which part of field training did you like better, JFTC or Maxwell, and why?
A: JFTC was the best because you get to learn a lot of things you wouldn’t expect to be part of your training as a college student.
Q: Is there any advice you would give to the 200’s heading down this summer?
A: Know your job, stay in your lane.

C/ Straughn
Q: Was field training what you expected it to be?
A: Field Training was, for the most part, what I expected it to be. The stress levels were definitely as high as I imagined. There were last minute procedural changes, and the facilities were a little different that I pictured in my mind, but other than that, it was pretty spot on.
Q: Did you make any friends that you will remain in contact with?
A: I talk to my flight mates from Field Training every day. We have a group message, which makes it easy to talk to everyone. We also bounce ideas off each other for numerous things that pertain to ROTC, so that’s also a plus.
Q: Is there anything you will miss about being there?
A: The biggest thing I miss from Field Training is my flight mates. When you spent 16 hours a day with the same people, you get pretty close. I also miss being with like-minded people 24/7. Outside of ROTC, it’s sometimes hard to find people that are as passionate or internally motivated as the people I interacted with down at Field Training, and it makes group projects or working with people in general a little more frustrating.
Q: Would you return as a CTA?
A: I would return to Field Training and be a CTA in a heartbeat. I loved every-thing about Field Training, and when TD-23 came around I did not want to leave. I hope I have the opportunity to go back!

Q: What did you learn from your experience there?
A: The most valuable lesson I learned that I can apply to my leadership style is having to be more hands-off and delegate tasks more. I really like to be involved and am a hands on type of person, but I quickly learned that, as a leader, you sometimes just have too much on your plate to tackle everything yourself, and you have to trust in your team that they can carry out the mission without you having to be there.

Q: Which part of field training did you like better JFTC or Maxwell, and why?
A: I enjoyed JFTC more than Maxwell, only because it challenged me to get out of my comfort zone a lot more than Maxwell did. I made more mistakes at JFTC, but it made me realize that you have to take risks in order to grow as a person.

Q: Is there any advice you would give to the 200s heading down this summer?
A: My advice is a quote that I heard when I was down at Field Training: “Don’t sacrifice your future career as an Air Force Officer for 5 minutes of com-fortability.” You only have 22 days (or however many days Field Training will be next summer) to give your all and show the FT staff that you have what it takes to be a POC and officer. Get out of your comfort zone, don’t sweat the small mis-takes (you will make plenty), and never ever give anything less than your 100%.
C/ Serrano

Q: Was field training what you expected it to be?
A: Yes, but just about the same amount of yelling as I thought there was going to be.

Q: Did you make any friends that you will remain in contact with?
A: Yes, there are about four people I became really close with while at Field Training and still talk to now.

Q: Is there anything you will miss about being there?
A: I believe I will miss the people and just being able to walk down the hall to be able to talk to them.

Q: Would you return as a CTA?
A: I do not think I would return as a CTA, just because I have to take some classes over the summer, but otherwise I would.

Q: What did you learn from your experience there?
A: I learned a lot of new leadership skills. I learned to be more decisive, and when to delegate tasks to accomplish them more efficiently.

Q: Which part of field training did you like better JFTC or Maxwell, and why?
A: I like JFTC... YOU’LL SEE!!

Q: Is there any advice you would give to the 200s heading down this summer?
A: I would suggest to avoid taking a break in studying and preparing before you go down. Once you get out of the swing of things, it is really difficult to jump right back into it. Also, know all your warrior knowledge like the back of your hand before second semester.
C/ Schmidt

Q: Was field training what you expected it to be?
A: Field Training was not a total departure from what I expected, but there will always be discrepancies between before and after impressions.

Q: Did you make any friends that you will remain in contact with?
A: I made a few friends that I anticipate will be sticking around for a while. Distance is our worst enemy.

Q: Is there anything you will miss about being there?
A: I miss the friends I made for sure. I also miss the relative carefree attitude for the rest of the world I adapted; the real world is cold and unforgiving.

Q: Would you return as a CTA?
A: I hope to be returning as a CTA next year, absolutely.

Q: What did you learn from your experience there?
A: Learning about myself in that type of environment was the most valuable aspect of FT by far.

Q: Which part of field training did you like better JFTC or Maxwell, and why?
A: JFTC was the most rewarding for me, but I couldn’t have done it without the things I learned from Maxwell.

Q: Is there any advice you would give to the 200s heading down this summer?
A: Have an open mind and with that, be adaptable.
C/ Theulen

**Q: Was field training what you expected it to be?**
A: Field Training was pretty close to what I expected. There a few curve balls thrown in a few times that caught me off guard, but for the most part it was what you would expect from a training environment.

**Q: Did you make any friends that you will remain in contact with?**
A: My whole flight has a “Group me” that we use to stay in contact. All 19 of us got to be really good friends by the end of it.

**Q: Is there anything you will miss about being there?**
A: I will miss the mindset that I had while I was down there. Since it was stressful, me and the rest of my flight thought the stupidest things were some of the funniest things we’ve ever seen or heard. It wasn’t hard for anyone to crack a smile, especially at lights out.

**Q: Would you return as a CTA?**
A: I would not return as a CTA. While I enjoyed my time down there, I would like to find something next summer more applicable to the job I get in the Air Force.

**Q: What did you learn from your experience there?**
A: I learned new leadership skills every day. Something valuable I learned was how to kick down a door, cause, you know, I now can kick down a door.

**Q: Which part of field training did you like better JFTC or Maxwell, and why?**
A: I liked JFTC more because it felt a lot more like an actual military training environment. It was a lot more challenging at JFTC, but my flight embraced that and we had a good time doing it.

**Q: Is there any advice you would give to the 200s heading down this summer?**
A: Try not to dread on it too much. If you stay relaxed before you go down and prepare a decent amount you’ll do just fine.
Q: How did it feel to return to field training as a CTA?
A: I was nervous and excited to go back as a CTA because I wanted to make sure that I did the best job I could for my two flights. It was a lot of responsibility, but ultimately it was the greatest experience I’ve had in Air Force ROTC.

Q: Did you enjoy it more than the first time you were there?
A: Definitely. I loved our group of CTAs and now consider them close friends. Also, I enjoyed the ability to work so closely with officers. They gave us insights to leadership, the active duty Air Force and ultimately mentored us to be the best leaders we can be. It was also a lot of fun applying stress to the cadets and seeing the many ways they react.

Q: What made you decide to return?
A: I loved the environment as I went through field training and couldn’t wait to go back. For me, it wasn’t an “if I could go back” it was a “when can I go back?”

Q: Was there anything you learned on your second visit that you didn’t learn on your first?
A: The number one lesson I learned from being a CTA is the importance of being a transparent leader. The style that my FTO and I took was very transparent so when a cadet deviated from what was expected from them, there were no questions to be had. We focused mostly on mentoring them and stressed the importance to understanding the “Why” behind everything they did. This was critical to their learning and helped them realize the importance of their actions.
Q: What advice would you give to people who want to be a CTA?
Bring a car! You have the option to drive down there, and let me tell you, the GOVs go fast. I wish I had my car down there so I could have gone off Camp Shelby easier.

Q: What are you most excited for this semester?
I am excited to motivate and mentor. I want everyone in the Wing to feel like they are continually getting better by being a part of Air Force ROTC and that they are developing their leadership style every day. Not to mention, I am excited to have fun along the way!
C/Theulen and C/Deike have been doing a fantastic job at getting us all back in shape with PT (physical training). These sessions have certainly taken a step up in difficulty from the previous years. In the pictures on page 13 you can see examples of those PT sessions. PT is used to help cadets prepare for the physical fitness assessment, PFA. The PFA consists of height, weight, and waist measurements, followed by one minute of push-ups, one minute of sit-ups, and a mile and a half run. Physical fitness is an important part of being an active duty officer, so we make it an important part in ROTC as well. The Cadets were given a little extra incentive to do well on this PFA. Scoring above a 94.3% allowed cadets to attend two of the three PT sessions per week. However, it is still strongly recommended that the cadets heading to Field Training stick to the three per week, or for those not heading back to Field Training to better differentiate themselves. I know that if we keep working hard, and C/Theulen, and C/Deike keep challenging us like they have been, then we will get our detachment PFA goal of 95% in no time.
Combat Dining in was a morale event, and the very first of its kind for Det 255. Masterfully orchestrated by C/Freitag, and it was known to the cadets as Operation TIGER HAWK. With many obstacles, a fun competition between flights, and a whole lot of mud, Operation TIGER HAWK was an amazing time for all of the cadets in attendance. It featured things such as water weapons of war (squirt guns), bowling balls, tug of war, and a Grog bowl. A Grog Bowl is a fashionable pink toilet bowl where the freshman through senior Cadets come up with an ingredient for their respective class. This particular concoction consisted of prune juice, Sqwincher mix, cream soda, and lime juice from the 400s through 100s respectively... not to mention Captain Peters’ addition of blood, sweat, and tears. We learned two very important lessons on that day. The first lesson is that you are never too old for squirt gun fights, and second, Captain Peters can spit some mad fire. Overall, C/Freitag did an outstanding job putting this together for us, and we hope to see more events like this in the future.
Cadets of Det 255 work hard, so we recognize this with a few morale boosting awards. The first award is known as the Cadet of the Month, and is given to three cadets from three different classes. These cadets have gone above and beyond in either Leadership Lab, volunteering, their job in ROTC, or PT, and have been recognized by the wing staff as the top performing cadet of their class for that month. These cadets are rewarded for their efforts, and have been recognized as the cadets of the month. Congratulations to freshman C/Smith, sophomore C/Deike, and junior C/Theulen, for the month of September. For the month of October the winners include freshman C/Korte, sophomore C/Patrone, and junior C/Serrano. Keep working hard and continue to set a good example for the rest of us to learn from.

Another award celebrated every week here at Det 255 is known infamously as the Cyclone Award. The Cyclone Award is given to the cadet that has done something funny or foolish, something that would be typical for those people who attend our rival school, Iowa State. This is a democratically given award from all of the cadets who attend lead lab. If a fellow Cadet or Cadre has seen you doing something foolish, they will nominate you during the announcements following lead lab. Whichever cadet gets the majority vote, after being nominated, wins the cyclone t-shirt and must wear it during the next week of PT sessions.