A Note From The Editors: “You can take the cadet out of LEAD but you can’t take the LEAD out of the cadet.” –C/Tasler

“My favorite color is mint green and I hate sand.” –C/Tallon
Tensions were high on September 10th as the cadets of Detachment 255 showed up to Brookside Park in Ames, Iowa to begin the annual Iowa/Iowa State AFROTC flag football game. A previous 8 year losing streak against Iowa State hung over the heads of everyone there.

“Oh geez, these guys are big,” said Cadet China Brown as she observed the ISU team’s arrival. However, not everyone was scared. Cadet Brianna Roberts had a different take. “I like to crush spirits in the morning,” she said.

Shortly after that, the team captains met up and the coin was tossed. The cadets of Det 255 chose to receive. After driving the ball a short ten yards, the ball was turned over to the Cyclones.

ISU dominated the first half. Their effective offense quickly scored early in the half. A two-point conversion turned the score into 0-8. The rest of the half remained scoreless.

Det 255’s motivation was restored after a thrilling speech from Hawkeye coach Ariel Serrano. Cadet Tim Sullivan, defensive end, was feeling good during the half. “I got [tackled] by the quarterback once,” he said, “I think I’m doing okay!”

The second half began with ISU on offense. They weren’t able to score, and the ball changed to Hawkeye possession.

The whistle blew, and Quarterback Tyler Korte pitched the ball to Sam Gupchup, who fired the ball into the end zone. Wide Receiver William Becker was there to catch the ball, bumping the score up to 6-8. “Gupchup is our Tom Brady,” Cheerleader Mya Wallace remarked after the score.

The ball went up and down the field without much progress, as both Hawkeyes and Cyclones alike had some great defense. With five minutes on the clock, the Cyclones lined up on offense. The snap went off, and the Cyclone quarterback went for a Hail Mary pass. Cadet Andy Kordick saw it coming and snatched the ball out of the air, turning it back over to the Hawkeyes.

The offense drove the ball down the field with a series of passes. The Hawkeyes managed to get the ball to the red zone, and on second down it was at the five yard line.

With two minutes left in the game. Quarterback Taylor Humphrey caught the snap and rushed through the defense, diving into the end zone for another Hawkeye touchdown. Kordick caught the ball for an extra point, and the Hawkeyes took the lead with a score of 14-8.

The clock wound down to zero, and the game was called. This marked the first victory for the Hawkeyes that any of the cadets had seen. Good work out there, Det 255!
The Man, The Myth, The Recruiting Officer

A flood of eager new cadets prepares to take Det 255 by storm. With 38 new cadets, the Cadre and upperclassmen have their hands full.

“The reason for this change really dates back two years ago,” said Capt. Phil Peters. “Captain Laubenthal [Operations Flight Commander] and I came in and took up the reins from Major Tony Clark, who had been doing both of our jobs up until then. There really wasn’t a Recruiting Officer before I got that job. He was the best he could at both jobs, but when forced to think about the current cadets here in the detachment whom you see every day, and high school students who only could potentially be cadets, your focus will naturally be split.”

Along with being an FTO (Field Training Officer) at LEAD over the summer, he visited high schools, scouted out new recruits, and even orchestrated Skype sessions with potential cadets.

“I really saw something in these new cadets, but a freshman coming in is not a finished product. If you are willing to do what it takes to achieve your dreams, if you are willing to put in 100 percent, then we can make you into a brand new Lieutenant in the Air Force,” Capt. Peters said.
A LEAD Graduate’s Tips for AS100s

1. Never be afraid to ask a question
   There is no such thing as a dumb question; the worst thing that can happen is someone will say no when you ask if you can do something.

2. Utilize your flight mates and fellow cadets
   It is impossible to do everything alone; fortunately enough there are plenty of resources you can utilize: your flightmates, your mentors, the POC, and even the Cadre.

3. Give it your all; don’t be afraid to make mistakes
   You learn by making mistakes and then correcting those mistakes. Never be afraid to step up or volunteer for flight positions or leadership opportunities.

4. Ask for feedback
   If you find yourself struggling with something, ask what it is that you are doing wrong; the POC are here to help you learn and grow as a leader and are more than happy to help.

5. Get your eight hours of sleep
   It is very important to be focused when it comes to training, whether that be PT or LLAB. The best way to ensure you are focused and ready to go is by getting enough sleep so you wake up feeling rested and ready to go!
Spotlight on LEAD Graduates

This summer, Detachment 255 sent nine cadets to Leadership Evaluation and Development, or LEAD, to further their quest in becoming Air Force Officers.

The following nine cadets graduated: Austin Grant, Ceci Kubu, Clay Tasler, Connor Patrone, Dennis Wagner, Jake Weiland, Jacob Wicks, Maxwell Tracy, and Sarah Deike.

After an intense two and a half weeks of training these cadets all became POC and are ready to continue their study and application of leadership and help the AS100 and AS200 cadets prepare themselves for their own experience at LEAD and Det 255.

C/Deike is no longer at the detachment, she is taking her experiences and going to the University of Alaska to help train and develop the cadets there.

C/Grant and C/Deike both received the Superior Performer award. Superior Performer means that they were in the top 20% of their flight.

Congratulations to the nine cadets who graduated LEAD!

Cadets take to the skies

Civil Air Patrol incentive flights are an opportunity available to all cadets. During these flights, cadets go up in an airplane above Iowa City and do a few turns and flying maneuvers along the way! Air Force ROTC is full of great opportunities and allows you to do things you have only dreamed of!

“It was pretty amazing, being able to go up and fly above Iowa City, see Kinnick and just campus in general,” Tyler Korte said.

Every cadet who signed up thoroughly enjoyed their experience and the ability to be able to wear a flightsuit.
With so many new faces in Det 255, the POC and Cadre have had to greatly adapt. John Theulen is our new wing commander this year, which means that he is the one guiding the wing in the direction it should go.

“My main goal is to make us the best Det we can be,” said Cadet Theulen, “If we do that, we will all be better students and leaders.”

That seems like a daunting task, especially with 38 new cadets in the Detachment, which is a huge change from last year.

“To be honest, when I walked into the gym during Leadership Lab the second week, I was close to speechless seeing the number of new cadets in there. It’s definitely going to be a challenge on the POC part with us being so heavily outnumbered,” Theulen said.

“It’s a good challenge,” he remarked. “These new cadets seem very eager to learn and ready to push forward. That’s going to make our job a lot more fun. It’s really motivating to know that, however slight the chance may be, you get a chance as a leader to have a positive effect on someone else.”

The Cadre of Det 255 have a similar perspective.

“We’re all very pumped,” said Captain Shannon Laubenthal, “This is an exciting, sharp bunch. It’s great to see their motivation, and their energy; it makes us all better leaders.”

But obviously, it’s not just the Det leaders who are going to be challenged this year.

“I remember being a freshman,” Capt. L added, “and I know that college presents its own daily challenges. Your priorities will be challenged daily; so strive to be better every day.”