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This semester’s question is for our Winter Semester cadets: **WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO JOIN ROTC?**

**Cadet Angell**
To become a leader.
I come from military background and the Air Force is the only branch not represented in my family.

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**Cadet Howell**
I have wanted to serve my country via the military for awhile; to be more specific, I chose Air Force over the other branches because it offered opportunities for officer careers that pertained more to my desired major, Computer Engineering.

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**Cadet Miller**
My mom’s fiancé was in the Air Force and made me believe that this was the best option for furthering myself and my education as well as a great way to have a plan for the future.

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**Cadet Sack**
I really just joined because I wanted to.
I like to do things that challenge me, and also I always wanted to run a marathon.

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**Cadet Tao**
I’ve always considered joining the Air Force but never realized how plausible it could be. I also had a lot of free time first semester and it’s a good use of that time. Also the Air Force is just super cool, and it has potential scholarships.

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**Cadet Tran**
I wanted to better myself as an individual while building up some needed self-discipline.
Plus, I was always curious what it would be like to assimilate myself into military culture and this program was the perfect opportunity.
Farewell to Our Commander:

Lieutenant Colonel Bement

By C/4C William B. Borden

What will be your best memory of the detachment?
“I don’t know that I can tell you that I have a specific favorite memory. There are a couple things that were good memories. The initial New Cadet Orientation Program when we got to meet our incoming freshman class… that would be our juniors now. Getting to see what we would deal with in terms of new cadets coming into the program. That kind of set the tone as what it is going to be like. My most memorable moment though is when Capt Wood was yelling at poor Cadet Slack during Warrior Weekend when she was a freshman. She got yelled at for calling the room for a cadet while I was still there. She was pretty scared and she recovered nicely… but she was not ready for that. It wasn’t too appropriate but Capt Wood didn’t realize who she was at the time. It was quite humorous. I had to walk out of the room to keep from laughing.”

What advice do you have for cadets still in the program?
“Be sponges. Soak up all the information you can. While in the program cadets are training. And education is going on at all times. We tend to think that as you cross over a magic hump at Field Training and become a POC member, that you training stops. It’s been my philosophy that your training as a POC is more important and in many ways more difficult than as a GMC member.”

What advice do you have for our soon-to-be commissioned second lieutenants?
“Shut up and Listen. I think the old adage goes is, “It’s better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than open it and remove all doubt.”

Do you have a funny story that would teach a valuable lesson?
“As I told the soon-to-be second lieutenants: shut up and keep your ears open. When I was a lieutenant I happened to be in a meeting with our 1-star general wing commander and my boss who was a colonel. The general and the colonel were having a discussion and I felt that the general had missed an important point that the colonel had brought up and I chose to speak up and address the general. He never even looked at me. He looked at the colonel, and he said in a very direct manner, ‘Why is he in the room?’ Which was the key for me that it was time to extract myself from the meeting. It is kind of one of those things where you have to know your place. At that time, I didn’t know my place. They say sometimes, ‘Children are meant to be seen or but not heard.’ That applies to lieutenants sometimes too. The general did not want to see or hear me at that point so I got out of the room as quickly as possible. You have to know your place in the pecking order.”

Who’s your favorite superhero?
“I have many superheroes that I am fond of, but I would say that Daredevil is my favorite. He is my favorite for a lot of reasons. First, as a child I remember buying my first Daredevil comic. It came out ages ago. I remember buying it up at the corner drug store and I still have it to this day. In the 80’s when I was going to college, Daredevil was right up there with Batman… the Marvel equivalent to DC’s Batman. I have followed him all along, I am looking forward to finishing Season 2 of Netflix’s Daredevil.”

What do you think is the most effective change you have made here at the detachment?
“There are two that to me are the most important. First, to be more inclusive for the cross-town cadets. Too often the easy fallback is that we are a detachment here are the University of Michigan and we are here for Michigan kids. That is not the case. We are here for all the students and all the cadets at all of our schools. We just happen to be located here at the University of Michigan. I certainly hope that my tenure here has seemingly made it easier for the cross-town cadets to participate in activities. We, cadre, try to enforce only mandatory activities on Thursdays and voluntary activities for other days of the week. The second thing is hopefully I have made training for the GMC more focused on the learning aspect and a little less on the evaluation aspect. I think the easiest example is trying to change up morning drill. Sometimes it would be 20-25 minutes before you even got to anything that had to do with drill because you were being nick picked over all of the things that were required to form up as a squadron or form up as a flight… and reporting in instructions and all those things. We were eating up valuable training time. It is voluntary drill and it would be nice if you would show up and could learn how to do drill activities. I think we focused – especially this semester – on learning as opposed to evaluating and that tough mentoring that some of our POC like to do. There is still room in that for ROTC, but It shouldn’t be our driving factor.”

Lt Col Bement and Grizz, the Oakland University mascot.
Get To Know Your Cadre

Captain Benjamin J. Song

Where were you born?
I was born in Los Angeles, California.

Why did you decide to attend the Air Force Academy?
My parents wanted me to go to West Point Military Academy located in New York, but I discovered the Air Force Academy which fit my interests better. I decided to go to the Air Force Academy because it was the newest branch in the service, the technology, and because I wanted to serve my country. I also saw issues in my community as a young adult and I decided I wanted to do something bigger than myself.

We hear you have been involved in community service. What was one of your past projects?
In 2009 I was serving in Japan at Misawa Air Base working as the Mission Director and Flight Commander. That is right around the time when the Shizuoka earthquake hit. I joined the group Misawa Helps and spent about five months helping the community and giving back. We would help the local farmers and citizens gather supplies and water.

Why did you choose to become an AFROTC instructor?
After working as an acquisitions officer I wanted to do something to reboot myself. I also wanted to see this side of officer training since I went to the Academy.

What future plans or projects would you like to be involved in?
I would like to join the program Big Brother Big Sister which is a mentorship program where you become a Big to a child and you mentor them and expose them to a healthier lifestyle. You get to build a relationship with a child who lives in a depraved community and helping them grow and dig a path to a better life. I would also like to apply to dental schools and earn my degree and become a dentist.

Five Interesting Facts You Might Not Have Known About Capt Song

1. He’s an ISTJ…just like Washington, Eisenhower & Warren Buffet.
2. Has competed in a bodybuilding competition and paraded on a stage in front of a crowd while wearing a tiny swimsuit.
3. Completed the Big Texan 72oz challenge.
   (Big Texan Hall of Fame baby!)
4. Perfect teeth! He’s never needed braces.
5. He likes turtles!
Robin Olds: The Man Behind the Mustache

By C/4C Benjamin H. Rappaport

If you ask people who the greatest American pilot of all time is you’ll get a number of different answers, Eddie Rickenbacker, Chuck Yeager, Billy Mitchell, and of course Robin Olds. Spanning three major wars, Robin Olds’ career in the Air Force is one of the greatest and most celebrated. He got his baptism by fire during World War Two over Nazi-occupied Europe and rounded out his career by resuscitating the American war effort in the blood-soaked skies of Vietnam.

Olds during his days playing football.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 14, 1922, to a Major General in the Army Air Corps, he practically grew up with a control stick in his hand and wings strapped to his back. He was destined for greatness from an early age. At age 17 he was recruited to play football for the United States Military Academy at West Point and by age 20 was named an All-American. Olds graduated from West Point in 1943 and went on to fly P-38 Lightning aircraft against the Axis Powers.

He first drew blood against the Nazi War Machine on August 14, 1944 shooting down two Focke-Wulf 190s and earned the revered title of ace less than two weeks later by downing three Messerchmitt 109s. It is important to add that he shot down the first of the three with his engines off and is therefore the only fighter pilot to have ever scored a “glider kill”. When he first happened upon the formation of 109s he and his wingman jettisoned their external fuel tanks to reduce drag and increase maneuverability and speed. Olds neglected to switch to his internal fuel tanks so his engines died on him while he had a German fighter squarely in his sights. Being the daring pilot that he was he refused to let the German go that easily and fired just enough rounds into him before his own aircraft began hurtling earthward. His astounding performance during the Second World War earned him the rank of major at the age of 22.
Following the war, he formed the Air Force’s first jet demonstration team flying airshows across the country in a P-80 Shooting Star. He sat out the Korean War, taking various posts in Air Defense Command and Commanding and/or training various fighter commands around the world, even one that was a part of the Royal Air Force.

Unfortunately, from behind the scenes, Olds witnessed a dramatic change in American fighter pilot doctrine, a change he aggressively fought against that would prove to be a grave error during the Vietnam War. That change was the phasing out of dogfighting and aerial combat training for American fighter pilots. The thought was that close-quarters engagements and guns wouldn’t be relevant anymore and that aircraft would just operate at long distance from each other and lob missiles. So deeply engrained was this new thought that the Air Forces front line fighter during the Vietnam War, the F-4 Phantom, was built without a gun, a design that today would be unthinkable. The results of such poor judgement were massive casualties and severely diminished morale. Seeing the worlds greatest Air Force in such a sorry state prompted Olds to return to air combat and take command of the distraught and downtrodden 8th tactical fighter, wing based out of Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base. After receiving a crash course in flying Phantoms Olds whipped the men under his command into shape, restored their fighting spirit, and taught them how to dogfight.

In the wake of the success of the operation Olds began to grow his famous, yet flagrantly out of regs, moustache. Other airman soon followed in his footsteps and grew a “bullet proof” moustache of their own. The moustache caught so much attention that the Air Force Chief of Staff personally and sternly, ordered Olds to take it off. Olds finished up his time in Vietnam with three additional Mig kills bringing his grand total to 16 making him a triple ace.

After Vietnam, Olds finished up his career as Commandant of Cadets at the Air Force Academy and as a safety inspector for the inspector general, finally retiring in 1973 after a long and seasoned career. Unfortunately, he passed away on June 14, 2007 at the age of 84 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. He serves as an inspiration to us all and his career gives us something to aspire to.
Base Visit – Winter 2016… Cadets Tour Scott Air Force Base

In the shadow of the St. Louis Arch, cadets from Detachment 390 – over the course of spring break – visited Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. Cadets on the trip got the opportunity to tour many parts of the base and also got to visit the Boeing museum where they learned some of the history of American aviation.

Scott Air Force is home of the 375th Air Mobility Wing. During the four day trip, the cadets and cadre members stayed in the Scott Air Force Inn. Cadets were given tours around base and even got to shadow Air Force officers working on different parts of the base. In addition, they got the opportunity to tour the wing headquarters building and get an inside peek at how the wing was run.

Cadets also had a chance to visit the air traffic control tower. Inside the tower, cadets got to see a simulator and the control room and saw the interworking of an air traffic control. After that, cadets went to the war and readiness center where airmen prepare for deployments. They got the opportunity to see some of the gear that is standard issue to anyone who goes on deployment including gas masks, helmets, body armor and the M-4 carbine.

Later on, they went over the C-21 Mission and Overview with a C-21 Pilot. Then they went to the Air Mobility Command heritage museum. For the rest of the night, cadets were able to go to downtown St. Louis.

On the second day of the tour, cadets shadowed different CGO’s that worked on base. Some of the groups included a security forces, a chaplain, a recruiting officer, and many more. This shadowing opportunity filled most of the day. Later in the afternoon, the cadets went on the last part of the trip: a visit to the Boeing museum. Along with a guided tour, the cadets learned the development of the first aviation companies and the story of Boeing.

All of the cadets on the trip agreed that they had a great opportunity to learn about the Air Force and base life. The base offered plethora of information for them to absorb. Overall, the base visit was a very positive experience and provided a great deal of perspective on Air Force life.

by C/4C Xavier Nuckles
FTX – April 2016: Seriously Trost… Did You Order Snow?

On the first weekend in April, 30 cadets and cadre members gathered at Camp Perry, Ohio, for the detachment’s annual Field Training Exercise. There was PT, dorm mx, marching, land nav, urban warfare, impromptu briefings, and of course… pizza and Capri Sun!

“Can I shoot Newberry now Sir?”

“Dolce said flutter kicks are awesome… and he’d never lie to us… right?”

“Pew pew pew. I shot you. You’re dead.”

“This is my rubber duck. There are many like it, but this is mine. Quack. Quack. Quack.”

“Rise and shine, cadet. You’re probably wondering where you are. I’ll tell you where you might be. You might be in the room that you die in.”

“And the winner of the cutest cadet bed is….”

Everyone wants a log
You’re gonna love it, log
Come on and get your log
Everyone needs a log
Log log log

“Can I shoot Newberry now Sir?”
This year at Detachment 390, our semester Mentorship competition started off with a bang. There were 11 mentorship teams this year with each including 5-6 cadets. Each team was designed to have at least one member from each class. This was designed to encourage camaraderie and interaction between each of the groups. The senior members of each group helped to mentor the younger members about ROTC, academics, and college life. Each mentorship group was also named after a famous Airmen who has displayed exceptional heroism in combat. This year, mentorship teams were rewarded points based the time they spent together and what activities they did. These activities could range from working out with each other to grabbing lunch and even going shooting together! The added element this year came from a new rule that was included in the competition. Mentorship teams were each assigned a cadre member that was a part of the family. The teams could get additional points for planning and doing activities with their cadre members.

Stone family had started off with a strong initial push and our family, Team Temple, reacted quickly with a wide range of events. Temple family felt that simply going out and eating everyday was not enough; we knew the real mentorship would come from events like rucking, shooting, swimming, lifting, movies, racquetball, video games, and studying together. The first event we decided to pursue was rucking and on one of our longer rucks we were able to complete 8-9 miles. We endured the pain of the gains of multiple workouts and made the most out of it by learning from our mentors and getting to know each other's interests outside of ROTC. Another exciting activity that we were able to complete was shooting where Cadet Smith was able to shoot her first pistol and turned her target into swiss cheese. Despite their best efforts, Team Temple entered the final week of competition down by 29 points. While most teams would have given up in the face of such a deficit, Team Temple rolled up their sleeves and got to work. With a furious amount of mentorshipping, the Temple family overcame this obstacle, putting in 68 points in a mere four days. This last, valiant effort sealed their victory and guaranteed their spot in the Detachment 390 mentorship Hall of Fame.

Cadets Krawczyk, Stone, Hajjar, Borden, Nuckles, Howell, and Lt Col Bement of the STONE family won the Fall 2016 Mentorship Competition by one star!
Congratulations 200’s and 250’s!

Good Luck at Field Training!

By C/4C Rappaport

As we all know AFROTC is never easy. Cadets are constantly pushed to work harder and perform better, all in the pursuit of one goal, commissioning as Second Lieutenants in the United States Air Force upon graduation from college. All of those pictured above (excluding Lieutenant Colonel Bement) have crossed a major milestone by being selected to go to Field Training this summer.

Cadets spend their first two years as general military course cadets, or GMC, and their last two years as professional officer course cadets, or POC. The transition from GMC to POC is made in the 28-day crucible down in Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, known as Field Training. Typically, cadets will attend Field Training in the summer after their second year of AFROTC. During Field Training cadets have their noses put to the grindstone 24 hours a day as they are put through rigorous training exercises involving drill performance, physical exercise, combat scenarios, weapons handling, and much more. Many cadets don’t get selected for Field Training after doing their time as GMC cadets and of those cadets who do get selected many of them don’t make it through the entirety of field training.

Having all thirteen of detachment 390s FTP class get picked up for Field Training is absolutely incredible, especially considering five of them joined AFROTC at the beginning of this academic year, opposed to the traditional two year track. I had no doubt in my mind that they’d all make it to this point. Even though Field Training will be difficult, I firmly believe that they’ll all conquer it as they’ve conquered all other obstacles thus far in their AFROTC careers. Going forward from there I see them continuing to fly higher as POC cadets and eventually as fully commissioned officers. For them the skies to conquer are limitless, and as a current IMT cadet I feel privileged getting to watch them soar. I also hope as POC next year they’ll go easy on me during my FTP year. From left to right in the photo is Cadet Jacob Chappell, Cadet Ashwin Rao, Cadet Joseph Craig, Cadet Trent Reynolds, Cadet Haley Slack, Cadet Haley Randich, Cadet Jacki Riley, Cadet Cody McCaffrey, Cadet Kristy Hajjar, Cadet Joshua Tanon, Cadet Michael Ehlen, Cadet Gary Hackett, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Bement (who pulled off a very successful strategic photobombing campaign), and Cadet Thomas Mullen.
Good Luck to our seniors as they begin their Air Force careers!!