Alumni Base Visit

By Cadet Mac-Rufus Umeokolo

This Summer, four cadets from Detachment 390 (Det 390) got the opportunity to visit Holloman Air Force Base (home to the 6th Attack Squadron and 8th Fighter Squadron) on the request of the base Commander, Colonel Joseph L Campo. Col Campo is a Det 390 alumni who received his B.S.E. in Electrical Engineering in 1997 from the University of Michigan. He later earned a Ph.D. in Military Strategy from Air University. He requested to have some of our detachment’s cadets come and check out Holloman AFB and experience what a career in the Air Force after graduation could be like.

This experience was was also documented in the Holloman News. Link below.

Holloman Article
New Cadet Orientation Program

By Cadet Mallory Dawes

NCOP stands for New Cadet Orientation Program. This program happens just before school is in session. This event is highly encouraged for anyone who is interested in joining the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC). Whether you just want to see what AFROTC is like or you know that you want to commission as an officer, it is a great event to attend. It is also a wonderful way to get an introduction to some of the things that you will do throughout the year.

This year, the event took three days and each day incorporated different activities. On the first day, prospective cadets started off learning about the history of ROTC, what it entails, what life as an AFROTC member is like, and were also informed about upcoming events for the year. Prospective cadets got the chance to mingle with returning cadets and asked any lingering questions they had in regards to their experiences thus far. On the second day, the prospective cadets were engaged in fun-filled icebreaker and physical activities such as a scavenger hunt, motivational run, and stair challenge. The third day was kicked off with a group leadership project, drill practice, some physical activities, and finished with a yummy barbeque.

Overall it was a great experience and was very beneficial in learning about AFROTC and what the program is about. Not only was it a fun event, but also a great opportunity to meet the new and returning cadets. Prospective cadets were all excited and ready for the challenge ahead.
Battle of Ohio

By Cadet Rose Lees

This a competition between Ohio AFROTC detachments. It consisted of 8 events including: Cadre Cornhole, tanks hosted by Bowling Green State, circuits hosted by Wright State University, relay hosted by Miami University, flag football hosted by Kent State University, dodgeball hosted by the University of Cincinnati, tug of war hosted by The Ohio State University, ultimate frisbee hosted by Ohio University, and small-sided soccer hosted by us, University of Michigan.

I had the opportunity to act as a referee for the soccer and football games, as well as participate in tanks and ultimate frisbee. These were fun challenges and it was evident that some detachments had been practicing and came very prepared. Although our detachment was greatly outnumbered, we still performed well as a team, tying in soccer with and losing 2-1 in ultimate frisbee.

Overall, the event ran smoothly and everyone had a blast! Det 390 tied for seventh place along with Wright State University, and placed third for tug of war. My favorite part of the event occurred during the Miami Relay. Our team was falling behind, so we all jumped in and did the workout with our fellow cadets, finishing as a team.

Combat Dining-In

By Cadet Nathan Tumminello

On Friday November 22nd cadets from U of M and MSU met at Lone Wolf paintball for Combat Dining In. This consisted of two events; the first was paintball. Two teams of ten start on opposite ends of the course with the task of eliminating the entire enemy team. Both teams were given identical paintball
guns and over 200 rounds. An elimination occurs when a paintball is fired and bursts anywhere on a player. Even with the large number of cadet participants, each cadet was able to play four to six games. During one round a picture was taken of Captain Wilkinson being held hostage by cadets Franc and Jung. One thing Lone Wolf Paintball was very serious about was safety. Because of this, barrel covers had to be on at all times outside the course and masks were required while playing to prevent injuries. Because of these precautions, Captain Wilkinson felt that this was safe and would make a funny memory.

After paintball, everyone gathered in the mess where we were then served salads and Benitos pizza. Everyone was pretty hungry after running around for an hour and they all enjoyed the meal to the fullest. However, we all had to be careful to follow the rules of the mess to avoid drinking from the Grog.

Cadet Nuckles then opened the mess to attempt callouts for the Grog Bowl. If a cadet was caught breaking a rule of the mess, anyone was allowed to call them out to go drink from the Grog. However, the individual calling out the other had to address them in a rhyming fashion and needed to be prepared for a rebuttal in the same form. If Cadet Nuckles wasn't pleased with their callout or rhymes, he would choose one or both cadets to go to the Grog. Once at the Grog the individual then had to salute the bowl, about face, declare, "To the mess!" then drink the cup. Once finished they were required to tip the cup on top of their head, and if any grog dripped out they had to drink again. The most memorable callout was when Cadet Jung attempted to send Captain Wilkinson to the Grog. However, Captain Wilkinson was more than prepared and replied with a rebuttal that caused the mess to erupt with approval.

Overall, Combat Dining In was an awesome experience. Whether it was getting to know fellow cadets from MSU, enjoying banter in the Mess, or shooting paintballs at POC everyone had a great time. I'm sure the same will be true next year.
FLX (Field Leadership Exercise)

By Cadet Ayana Boyd

Once a year, Det 390 puts on a teaching event called FLX for one weekend. This year we had the detachments from MSU and BGSU join us. FLX is an exciting opportunity that gives GMC (underclassmen) cadets a laidback training environment. This environment allows cadets to learn from each other. FLX forces the GMC cadets to get to know each other quickly, so they can effectively and efficiently complete their given tasks. This experience is very similar to what will happen at field training. FLX is full of leadership opportunities for each and every cadet to pursue. Additionally, it gave GMC cadets opportunities to adapt to unforeseen circumstances and learn from them.

Leading up to the event, I was extremely nervous because I thought it was going to be a strict learning environment. The first night, though, I was insured by my POC flight commander that FLX was a laidbacked learning community, so I felt more comfortable. The following day, I learned important survival skills like how to build shelters, collect water from nature, and how to start fires. To further interest the day, we went to the running track to witness a helicopter flyover by a Det 390 graduate. Then after lunch, we played three rounds of paintball. During paintball, we learned special security forces tactics on going around a corner, clearing a building or house, and traveling across a field. This experience made me consider pursuing a career in security forces. My favorite part of FLX was the debriefing session at the end of the day with our flight and squadron commanders. I had the opportunity to ask them anything I wanted about ROTC or just life in general. It was a great way to understand what it is like to go through the ROTC program.

Overall, FLX was a great experience. It gave all the detachments a time to bond and get to know each other. We made memories that will last a lifetime with other detachments. I was able to meet girls from other detachments which was very beneficial. Even though the weather did not cooperate at times during the weekend, POC and cadre improvised to make this weekend a great one. All their hard work of planning FLX definitely
paid off. I would highly recommend FLX to the cadets who did not come and next year’s IMT cadets. I honestly cannot wait until FLX next year!

The Air Force Marathon.
By Cadet Mac-Rufus O. Umeokolo

The U.S. Air Force Marathon is an event held once every year on the third week of September at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The Marathon was started in 1997 to celebrate the Air Force 50th birthday and has been continuously held at Wright-Patterson since then. Det 390 cadets and cadre attend the marathon every year to put their endurance to the test. The races include a full marathon, half marathon, 10k and 5k. To complete the race, enthusiasm and a determined mind are required. You have to be able to endure the fatigue, focus your attention on completing the race, and pace yourself mile after mile. Even though this is the case, we stayed safe and had a lot of fun running with thousands of other active duty airmen, civilians, and veterans.
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