Cadets Visit Andrews AFB

By Cadet Justin Franc

27 cadets recently had the opportunity to visit Joint Base Andrews and explore for themselves the operational side of the Air Force. On the first day of the visit cadets received incentive flights on the UH-1N Huey platform, touring Washington D.C. and flying close to America's most important landmarks. After their flights, cadets had time to explore the National Mall and the downtown D.C. area in uniform, taking in the iconic sights while representing the United States Air Force and Detachment 390. Once they returned to Andrews AFB, cadets had a special opportunity to witness President Donald J. Trump board Air Force One.

On the second day, cadets started with an interactive tour of the 11th Security Forces Squadron, giving some insight into the diverse and unique missions that these airmen are tasked with. Cadets then had a window tour of the base, leading them to EOD and more hands-on familiarization. Cadets also sat down at lunch with a Special Agent from OSI. After lunch, they returned to D.C. and visited the National Air and Space Museum.
Project Global Officer PDT
by Cadet Gabbi Rathmann

Project Global Officer is an opportunity for ROTC cadets from all three branches—Army, Navy, and Air Force—to learn critical languages for 8 weeks over the summer. In addition to being immersed in their selected language for 30+ hours a week, cadets have the opportunity to learn about the culture associated with the language, and network with cadets and midshipmen from locations all over the country.

Programs are offered at a variety of schools domestically and abroad. Personally, I have had the opportunity to study Arabic through Project GO for two summers; the first in Meknes, Morocco, and the second in Tucson at the University of Arizona. There are so many aspects of this PDT that make the experience incredibly unique. First, getting to study Arabic for around 8 hours a day, uninterrupted by any other classes, and with instructors who are native speakers, drastically improved my proficiency in the language. Second, the Air Force pays for nearly the entire trip, covering flights, tuition, and housing expenses. I got to travel to about 15 different cities in Morocco, with amazing historical and cultural sights, all on the Air Force’s dime!

Best of all, I’ve made some amazing friends during these two summers. I still talk to both of my roommates from the two programs on a regular basis. The connections that I have from Project GO spread to so many detachments, battalions, and active duty bases; and I know that there is a good chance I will see a lot of the people I have met down the road in the active duty Air Force. Project GO is an incredibly valuable experience and I would highly recommend it to every single cadet!

NCOP Winter 2020
by Cadet Gabbi Rathmann

This past January, Detachment 390 had the great privilege of welcoming eight new cadets. The new 150 cadets spent their first day participating in the New Cadet Orientation Program, better known as NCOP. Candidates were greeted by cadre and POC cadets, who explained the life of an ROTC cadet, from requirements and expectations to what a typical day might look like during the week.

After the information briefings came the most important part—paperwork!!! While in-processing was taking place, the candidates got to know each other and had a Q&A session with the POC. Once paperwork was complete, an overview of some basic marching took place, where candidates got to practice static movements such as saluting, attention, parade rest, and facing movements. After the completion of NCOP, these new members of Det 390 would have five weeks in a candidacy program before being inducted into the Wing as cadets.
Candidate Induction
Winter 2020
by Cadet Adam Magistro

On a brisk Thursday morning in January, eight Air Force ROTC candidates became cadets. These eight joined the program in the winter semester rather than in the fall but their impact could be felt immediately. Through a sequence of team building and performance oriented tasks, the 150s successfully completed the battery and officially became cadets. Tasks included a thorough Warrior Knowledge Inspection by C/Col Markell and his staff, an exercise to see how well they knew their wingmen, an open ranks inspection with the assistance from FTP Cadets, and finally a group leadership project (GLP). Their ultimate goal was achieved when the code set by the POC was cracked and as a Detachment everyone shouted the Airman’s Creed. Detachment 390 is excited to watch these young Cadets’ progress as they move through the AFROTC program.

"Detachment 390 is excited to watch these young Cadets’ progress as they move through the AFROTC program."
I recently got the opportunity to go to the National Character and Leadership Symposium at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. The symposium consisted of different panels that I could attend. I also got a cadet host named Hannah and she was currently a junior at the Academy.

Some of the most memorable speakers that I went to watch were Kristen Christy and Mark Nutsch. Mrs. Christy was voted 2018’s Air Force Spouse of the Year. During her lecture, she talked about resiliency and how she learned to persevere and stay optimistic despite some of the horrific tragedies that had happened to her family. I was inspired by her optimism and her will to rise from all her hardship. She told us to take care of each other and to be there for your loved ones, even when you think that they don’t need you.

I stayed after the lecture and talked to her for a brief moment. She decided to help me with my AS400 class thesis paper and gave me her card, telling me to call her anytime.

Mark Nutsch was the former commander of the first Green Beret Unit that went into Afghanistan right after 9/11. He was portrayed by Chris Hemsworth in the movie, 12 Strong. During his lecture, he told the declassified version of what had happened when he went on this mission and it was an incredible honor to not only hear him talk but also get to meet him after his lecture. I was inspired by his humbleness, his calm composure and his courageous outlook on life.

Overall, I definitely recommend NCLS if you are looking into PDTs. I learned a great deal from all of the speakers that I met at the event. It also gives you an inside look at what life is like for an Academy cadet.
Life as an IMT Cadet

by Cadet Mihnea Frincu

Life as an IMT Cadet doesn’t mean that I wake up thirty minutes before my first class, it starts earlier than that. It starts before the sun itself has risen. At least twice a week, my day begins with Physical Training (PT). This involves showing up with the desire to perform, to motivate, and be a better person than I was yesterday. The thing that makes this commitment much more enjoyable is the people. Those that are willing to get up as early as me and be prepared to work hard for a purpose that is bigger than ourselves are excellent role models for me, and that is extremely motivational.

On Tuesdays, right after PT, I attend Morning Drill. This is a highly recommended voluntary activity that allows me to get extra practice regarding Drill and Marching movements. After PT, I get breakfast with my fellow IMT cadets, where we interact with each other in a relaxed environment. After changing and showering, I go to class, and by this time, I’ve already have been awake for four hours. I show up ready to be engaged in the course material. After I am done with classes, it is time for dinner, which I usually get with fellow cadets. We have a good time, and it is my time to relax before I go to my room or the library to do homework.

Finding a balance between ROTC life and Academic life can be a bit challenging, but it is much more rewarding when you are able to succeed in classes and participate in ROTC-related activities. If my time management is on point, my nights tend to end pretty early, as not only do I value my sleep, but also because my alarm is most likely going to wake me up at dawn.

The AS250 Year

by Cadet Kyra Fletcher

Life as an AS250 is just like any other cadet, however you have less time to prove you’re dedicated and motivated to succeed in the program. I believe as an AS250 you have to step up and show what kind of leadership skills you can provide to the detachment. Similar to everyone else, except the pressure is a little higher.

The truth is I’ve been sitting here for days trying to think of a list of positive things to say or advantages of being an AS250, but the most real thing I can say is, you just have to work your butt off. Volunteer for everything, show up, study and then study some more. In reality you have a year to makeup; to know just as much as your peers or even more. Work ethic is essential for succeeding not just in the program but anywhere in life. Ask the questions and give it your all. The experience that I have had and the skills I continue to learn will benefit me for the rest of my life. Being an AS250 cadet is very humbling and provides an encouraging sense of comradery. I am very grateful to have this opportunity to grow as a cadet and potentially become future leader in the United States Air Force.