Introduction

Welcome to the Spring 2020 semester! This issue will cover a couple cool things, the first being our annual drill competition. This is explained by the coordinator of the event himself, Timothy Lutz. It was a great event that showcased some amazing drill from JROTC detachments all across Chicagoland. Our cadets judged them on drill and ceremonies, as well as dress and appearance. In our second article, Sophia Ruark explains the new and exciting changes to the AFI, which now allow new dress and appearance standards for all Air Force members.
Detachment 195 Drill Competition

By Timothy Lutz

1 February 2020 was the second annual Chicagoland Invitational Drill Competition. This event saw JROTC drill teams from across the state come and compete in 11 different facets of drill & ceremony ranging from unarmed inspection, to color guard, to armed solo exhibition, and many events in between. They spend hundreds of hours a season practicing and brought their A game.

Nearly doubling in size from last year the competition saw 7 teams compete valiantly for the overall champion title. The teams all scored well, and some events were decided by just a couple points. There was a tie for first place in unarmed inspection, and a tie for second place in armed inspection. The tie breaker for the armed placement was decided by a single point. That really goes to show the level of excellence all these cadets bring to competing. Bolingbrook High School earned the runner-up title and West Aurora High School took home the overall champion.
Over half of the cadets from Detachment 195 attended and volunteered their weekend to judge and score keep which was an amazing turn out. The overwhelming support allowed the competition to run smoothly. I hope that all the cadets that came had a great time and learned a lot from the cadets competing.

Lewis University, Lt Col Ortega from the Lewis department of Veterans Affairs, Detachment 195 Cadre, and all the cadets who volunteered deserve a huge thank you for all their support in making this event happen. I could not have planned this competition without that Army (or Air Force) of people behind this. I cannot wait to see where this event soars to next year! Stay Ice Cold Warhawks!

**New Regulations for Appearance**

By Sophia Ruark

In an updated release of AFI 36-2903 on 7 February 2020, new accommodations for religious apparel are officially permitted. The new regulations formalize a process for Airmen to request waivers for apparel such as turbans, hijabs, unshorn beards, and unshorn hair as well as other headcoverings for a religious purpose. These requests are only deniable if they interfere with a policy that "furthers a compelling government interest."

While the Air Force has approved permission for several Airmen to wear beards, hijab, and turbans for religious reasons recently, this AFI update makes these requests formalized and accessible to everyone as opposed to strictly a case-by-case decision. If you have any requests for religious accommodation as it pertains to your uniform, let your direct supervisor know!
Notre Dame Basketball Trip

By Sophia Ruark

From 7-9 Feb, some Detachment 195 cadets participated in an ROTC basketball tournament at Notre Dame. We spent the weekend practicing as a team and playing three games against Virginia Tech, Northwestern, and Iowa State. It was a fun experience and I enjoyed going to it for the third year in a row. I even scored points - for the first time ever! Jokes aside (is it a joke if it's true?), my favorite thing about the tournament is that it is a fun way to get to know your ROTC peers outside of LLAB and an opportunity to play a team sport just for fun. We ate meals together and worked as a team to have a good time, and even though we didn't win games this year, we all supported each other as players and showed good sportsmanship throughout. I'm proud to be part of a supportive Detachment that has opportunities like this for its cadets. If you are ever considering participating in an ROTC event outside of LLAB, do it and have fun!
By Jacob Petrik

When I first heard that there would be a trip to Notre Dame, I couldn’t be more ecstatic, finally, I would get to see one of the most beautiful old fashioned libraries that a university has to offer and of course, touchdown Jesus. Our opponents had the high ground making our games tough. Our first was a tough defeat to Virginia Tech but after a great burger, team bonding, and a good night’s sleep, we were ready for the next opponent that dare cross our path. Our narrow defeat in game two was followed by a quick GLP.

Game three was tough, but we showed true wingmanship and stuck together to the end.

Overall, the Notre Dame basketball trip was a success. Though we did not win a game this time, we learned many lessons. We learned the value of comradery, we learned how to properly change a tire, we learned that no loss could ever take away the appetite for a good burger, and most of all we learned that those parking garage gates are easily fixable.