The Virus Won’t Stop Us From Serving

C/3C Hawn has been keeping himself busy in his hometown of Virginia by working and assisting his community in the midst of the virus. He states, “I've recently been back at work at my old part-time job as bicycle mechanic and salesman at Wheel Nuts Bike Shop in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. While the spread of COVID-19 has slowed down operations for a number of different businesses, this certainly hasn't been the case with Wheel Nuts. As a result of the pandemic, Americans’ means of exercising have been limited, which has led many of them to turn to cycling as a means to stay in shape while adhering to social distancing guidelines. This has generated a "bike boom" across the U.S., wherein bike sales have swiftly risen, while also becoming a scarce resource, due to the supply chain interference caused by COVID-19.

That being said, it's been great getting back to work and staying busy over the summer. The shop is currently experiencing the largest influx of tune-up requests since the early 2010s, to the point where our small, family-owned shop is running out of floor space to put the bikes. As someone pursuing an engineering degree, it's been especially fun fixing things and teaching our customers about their bikes. It's also nice knowing that the business is providing a source of enjoyment and exercise for folks during these trying times. All in all, not a bad way to be spending the summer with all the craziness going on right now. Stay safe everyone, I look forward to seeing you all again in the fall!”
A Journey to Field Training 2020
From C/3C Basrawi to his fellow GMC:

Field Training (FT) is not only a requirement for commissioning but it will also affect the selection of five careers we choose from during our AS300 year. We do not enter FT to learn - we enter to perform. While we may not be able to train together as we used to, there is still time to grow over the summer before entering FT. I will share with you my preparation in regards to practicing formal procedures, miscellaneous techniques, and FT Manual studying. And hopefully this information may help you in your preparation too!

Knowing formal procedures such as commanding drill are essential to success at FT. In the past I had trouble executing an effective command voice and nearly damaged my throat during transit. To prevent it from happening at FT, I took my twin brother to an open field and commanded him to perform drill movements while standing/marching from more than 9 paces away. I find it helpful to have someone practice with you, even if they may not know the procedures themselves. You may also have your relative or friend help you memorize Warrior Knowledge or practice reporting procedures. Just make sure you practice proper social distancing when you leave the house!

In light of that subject, use whatever resources available that allow you to learn miscellaneous skills such as sewing, map reading, SUT, etc. because these techniques will likely make your peers look up to you. For instance, I was warned that there’s a possibility cadets will lose ABU buttons, so I requested my sister to teach me how to sew. In addition to honing new skills, I wrote down the procedures of my technique and tallied the amount of times I practiced it. The more tallies I mark, the more confident I will be with my techniques. Only practice will not get you to perfect, but perfect practice will. Mess up until you do well, then do it well a few more times. If you don’t have someone to teach you, use Google or YouTube - everything is found on them.

One of the first things we will do at FT is take an exam based on our understanding of the FT Manual (FTM). My way of memorizing FTM material faster is by writing down important or new information as I read along. While it may not be the most creative way of going about it, it helps me regurgitate information easier than only reading it once. If I want to trace back to some key info, I can look over my notes rather than re-read a section in the manual. The best method of practice for this is to perform a test on our own. Testing allows us to identify our
strengths and weaknesses and gives us the closest experience to the actual thing. That being said, find your method of studying and find a way to test your knowledge.

All the answers are given to us for our FT preparation. The challenge is to find these answers, know them by heart, and to utilize them to the best of our abilities at FT. Between now and our MAX dates, we should use this time to learn, practice, and study. I cannot promise that we will be perfect by the time FT comes, but if we have prepared ourselves as best as we can we will enjoy FT more than those who did not

How did they not know?!  

Even though they have known each other since their AS100 year, C/Col Lutz and C/Maj Jakubowski just discovered this year that they share a Birthday!! On June 4th, they both celebrated their 21st Birthdays with friends and family.

Cadet Grimm’s Rims!  

C/4C Grimm has been keeping himself busy with a DIY car makeover! C/Grimm describes his project, “I wanted to change up my cars look so that it would match more with my newly tinted windows. Because the wheels are a big part of how the car looks, I decided to give those a custom paint job.

Since the car is already a golden color, I decided to use that as an accent color and make the rest solid black. I started by cleaning the rims and sanding them down so that the primer would stick. Next I coated the wheels with a layer of gold, once this was dry, I masked off the fine golden lines and coated the entire rim in a deep glossy black. This already looked great, but I also gave them
a clear coat for some extra shine and protection. Finally, I had to let them dry for 3 days so that the paint would have time to harden sufficiently. In the meantime, I decided to paint my brakes a Daytona yellow to stand out and pop with the black. I’m very satisfied with the results of my COVID-19 DIY boredom project.” How cool!

Announcements:

- As of 13 June, Col Povilus will be the Det 195 Commander!
- 6 June 20 marked the 76th Anniversary of D-Day
- Flag day is 14 June
- The Air Force Song has changed!! Check it out: https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/2201395/final-changes-to-air-force-song-announced/
- Stay safe, Stay healthy, Stay active & Stay ICE COLD