Welcome Back Detachment 195!

We are just under halfway done! Congratulations on all of the progress you have made so far—but don’t become complacent. So far this semester, we have refreshed ourselves on drill movements, learned Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) Tactics, and took the Fitness Assessment (FA).

Field Training is just around the corner and pushing yourself now will only help you improve. We are going to be having some voluntary extra training days to allow the opportunity for individualized training. This time of the year can be very busy—midterms, spring break, and before you know it, finals! Ensure you are taking care of yourself and your wingman.
Chicagoland Invitational Drill Competition

By Tim Lutz

This year, Detachment 195 hosted our first ever JROTC drill competition. Five teams from all over the Chicagoland area competed in nine different drill events. Being two weeks out from their conference competition, these teams brought their best and put up stiff competition against one another. Every team placed in at least one event, but West Aurora’s A-team came out with a well-deserved victory.

Being a part of the team that put together one of the most successfully run drill competitions I have ever seen in my four years of competing and two years judging was amazing. It was clear the teams really enjoyed themselves. One of the most rewarding things was how this event integrated different parts of the Chicagoland community that don’t often interact. Civil Air Patrol (CAP) helped score the event, so bringing CAP, JROTC, ROTC, and the friends and family of cadets all together for a fun and excited event was spectacular to see.

Reaching out to these other organizations to help make the competition happen was a great learning experience for me, and something I think everyone can keep in mind as we move forward towards being officers. There are many organizations that share goals and reaching out
to them for help is a great resource. More work and better work can be accomplished when working as a team.

**Notre Dame Basketball Tournament**

*By Dominic Ballano*

Detachment 195 travelled to the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN for the annual ROTC basketball tournament on February 1-3. As an AS100, I was a bit nervous, but overall, I loved the atmosphere of the people I was surrounded with and I felt comfortable. Put simply, the whole experience was amazing for me. As an 100, the opportunities where I can truly integrate myself with POC or 200s seem like few and far between. I was able to meet cadets from other detachments, and compete head-to-head with some great athletes. I loved how competitive the games became at some points because it forced us to rely on our wingmen, and to lead & encourage each other when the time came. We were placed in a tough division with Purdue, Notre Dame, and Loyola, but battled valiantly in all three games. Even though we came out winless, I was extremely proud and excited that I was able to participate in such an event. Overall, this experience made me more comfortable and
enthused to be in AFROTC, and introduced me to countless of other events that I can and will get involved in the near future.

**Cadet Spotlight: Cadet Matthew Szolek-Van Valkenburgh**

*AS Year: AS300*

*School you attend: Lewis University*

**Favorite AFROTC Memory:** My favorite AFROTC memory was the last day of Field Training. Prior to departure from the airport, I spent the little time that I had left with my flight recalling the outstanding experiences that we had shared. Even though it seemed that we had just met each other, I knew our flight would sustain a life-long friendship.

**Activities/Interests/Hobbies:** Rugby, flying (Lewis University aviation), and model aircraft design.

**Why you joined:** I joined AFROTC in order to honor my grandfather, a retired Air Force Chaplain, and to pursue a higher education.

**Interesting fact about yourself:** I have a twin brother.
Upcoming Events

**Recruiting at North Central College:** 1 March. Contact C/3C Pollack or C/4C Bird or if you are able to volunteer.

**Recruiting at Illinois Tech:** 7 March. Contact C/3C Mutnansky or C/4C Walton if you are able to volunteer.

**Recruiting at Loyola University:** 30 & 31 March. Contact C/3C Wendlberger or C/4C Clemens if you are able to volunteer.

**Make-up FA:** the final FA of the semester will take place on 18 April during LLAB (1000-1200) at Lewis University. Contact C/Capt O’Donnell if you have any questions.

**Extra Training Day:** 3 March at 1100. Locked off environment to learn about drill, dorm maintenance, and other questions you may have.

**MULLAB 2:** 13 March at 0600. Contact C/1st Lt Ruark with any questions.

**Washington D.C. Trip:** 18-21 March. Contact C/Maj Dickerson with any questions.

FTX at Fort Custer Michigan: 22-24 March. Contact C/Lt Col Evans with any questions.

Cadet News Items

Congratulations to C/4C Mathis for breaking Illinois Tech’s Record for the 60m dash at his first collegiate track meet.

Congratulations to C/3C Mutnansky for contracting!
Thanks for Reading!