Home Stretch for Spring Semester

We have just one month left of the semester! We have learned so much this semester, but still need to buckle down to prepare for Field Training. The month of March was busy—we had Operation Rising Warhawk (ORW), career day, spring break, a trip to Washington D.C., and a joint Field Leadership Exercise (FLX). Let’s finish this semester out strong!

March was also filled with some exciting news. Congratulations to all the cadets who were selected for Field Training this summer! Now is the time to soak in as much information as possible to be the best prepared for Field Training. The rated boards were also released and so another big congratulations to the following AS300s for their selection.

Brady Dickerson: Pilot
Mariano Franchi: Pilot
Matthew Szolek-VanValkenburgh: Pilot
Karsen Diepholz: Combat Systems Officer
Sophia Ruark: Remotely Piloted Aircraft Pilot
Washington D.C. Trip

By Cameron Chrest

On March 18, a group of nineteen cadets, plus Captain Sacks, began a four day trip to our Nation’s capital. The first day involved a twelve hour drive through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, ending at Andrews Air Force Base. This drive was very long, but provided the opportunity to catch up on sleep and interact with other cadets.

On the second day we visited the Pentagon and the National Air & Space Museum. At the Pentagon, we were given a tour of various areas in the facility, including the office of the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. I particularly enjoyed this part of the trip because it was a unique opportunity to see where many of the most important people in the Air Force and Department of Defense do their work. In the afternoon, we visited the Air & Space Museum. The museum’s collection included many historically significant aircraft. My favorite aircraft at the museum were the Space Shuttle Discovery and the Enola Gay.

The third day focused on visiting locations on base. In the morning, we observed security forces performing training exercises. We then visited the Spark X Cell, an innovation center on base. In the afternoon, we visited the Air National Guard Readiness Center and the PAX Terminal.
On the final day, we took the bus back to IIT. Being able to see the Pentagon and Andrews AFB was an incredible experience for me and increased my interest in AFROTC.

Field Leadership Exercise (FLX)
By Vincent Senese

Overall, I would say that I have had an outstanding experience during the FLX weekend at Ft Custer, MI. The sense of wingmenship from the moment I arrived to the moment I left was not only helpful, but inspiring. I arrived in one of the later parties, which left me little time to get into my PTGs and prepare for the initial room inspection (by Notre Dame). Despite my delayed arrival, I still got great support from my wingmen helping me standardize my gear (which came in handy later), make my bed, and organize how the blues would be presented.

On the first morning, I was assigned to be the Squadron III Commander. My duties were to march the squadron from point A to point B using proper procedures (road guards, route step, etc), take accountability before/after transit, and relay the Group Commander’s orders of the day to my Flight Commanders until I was later replaced. For me, this was a great opportunity to practice the verbiage, procedures, and overall process of squadron marching in a large-scale environment with tight time crunches. Before training and breakfast, we headed down to the track for PT. It was colder than cold (ICE COLD), but we pushed on by getting active and
staying motivated. After PT was hygiene and breakfast at the dining facility (DFAC). During breakfast we were required to utilize proper DFAC procedures, which I was very excited for so I could get some practice and gain a better understanding of how it works.

The training was another great form of practice. We covered land navigation/buddy carries, Flight Drill Evaluations (FDE), Paintball for 4-man teams, and a lot of Group Leadership Projects (GLPs). One big detail I took back from the FDE practice was to pay extra close attention to some of the commands, so you don’t finish the FDE starting with a rotate 90degrees instead of an incline 90degrees.

Later on, for the official room inspection, I was selected as the Group Standardization Officer. My objective was to standardize the entire encampment with the same plan for the inspection. This was a great experience for me to practice my leadership skills in a big role, and take home a great debrief lesson to delegate and verify (a lesson I will be sure to bring back to the Detachment and share with my wingmen). The FLX experience was definitely a great one filled with lessons that I will be sure to bring back to the Detachment, and look back on at Field Training so that I my better help my wingmen succeed. I will definitely look forward to this experience in the following semesters.
Cadet Spotlight: Cadet Michael Pollack

Name: Michael Pollack
AS Year: AS250
School you attend: North Central College
Favorite AFROTC Memory: The first Lewis cookout of the school year where the GMC came back to beat the POC in sand volleyball.
Activities/Interests/Hobbies: Basketball, space, singing
Why you joined: To be a part of something greater than myself
Interesting fact about yourself: I have three older sisters
Upcoming Events

*MULLAB 3*: 3 April at 0600. Contact C/1st Lt Ruark with any questions.

*Extra Training Day*: 7 April 1100. Locked off environment to learn about drill, dorm maintenance, and other questions you may have.

*Dining In*: 13 April 1800 at North Dining Hall at the Great Lakes Naval Base.

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

*MULLAB 4*: 24 April at 0600. Contact C/1st Lt Ruark with any questions.

*Recruiting at Loyola University*: 30 & 31 April 1230-1330. Contact C/3C Wendlberger or C/4C Clemens if you are able to volunteer.

*End of Semester Awards*: 2 May 1000. Invite family and friends to our end of semester parade, awards ceremony, and change of command.

Cadet News Items

Congratulations again to our Field Training and Rated Selects!

Congratulations to our Mid-Semester Award Winners

AS100: C/Falk
AS200: C/Pollack
AS300: C/Cordova
AS400: C/O’Donnell
GMC: C/Lutz
POC: C/Dickerson

Wing Staff Recognition: C/Ruark
Thanks for Reading!