Welcome Back Detachment 195

Welcome to all the new and returning cadets to Detachment 195! We hope you had an amazing summer and we look forward to seeing all of the incredible accomplishments you will make throughout the school year. Detachment 195 shined over the summer, with 11 cadets graduating from Field Training and finishing at the top of their flights. At Field Training, they were evaluated for their entry into the POC and learned their own leadership styles. We also had our very own Wing Commander, C/Col Eraas, attending the Space Cadet Internship Program!

As you all know, this year Detachment 195 is doing a split detachment. This means that half of our cadets will be at IIT on Thursdays from 1300-1500 while the other half is at Lewis University on Mondays from 1400-1600. C/Col Eraas and her Vice Commander, C/Col Bradley, oversee all cadet operations; even though split during LLAB, we are all still one Detachment 195!
Field Training Experience
By Brady Dickerson

Field training truly was the best fun you’ll never want to have again. I heard that phrase thrown around numerous times before I left and I never understood what it meant till I got back. The friendships you make at field training are some that you will carry with you for the rest of your career because it is a small Air Force. Field training had its ups and downs. Some of the best moments were the fact that C/1st Lt Franchi and I were suite mates. The constant scenarios, testing us and seeing how we work with others were not easy but everyone makes their own fun during the scenarios. The feeling you get when you shoot one of your CTAs in the face with a paintball are some of the most oddly satisfying moments of your AFROTC career. Through all the fun you have, make sure you take moments every night and write down what you did through the day because it is tough to remember once you make it through.

TSgt John Chapman and Inspiring Leadership
By Michelle Trovato

Technical Sergeant John Chapman was a combat controller killed in March 2002 while fighting entrenched al Qaeda terrorists high in the mountains of Afghanistan. A video from a USAF Predator drone captured Chapman’s extraordinary heroism, which eventually led to Chapman’s Air Force Cross being upgraded to a Medal of Honor – the nation’s highest award for valor in combat. The Predator, orbiting ahead, showed Chapman repeatedly attacking enemy
positions. He was hit by enemy fire and presumably knocked unconscious. Later, when he recovered enough to resume fighting, he once again began attacking enemy positions at close range. John Chapman’s picture is framed on the wall of General David L. Goldfein’s wall in the Pentagon – along with the propeller blade of the Predator drone. “As he fought his way to his death on that mountaintop, he did so to protect his teammates,” Goldfein said. “He did that in as tough an environment as one could ever imagine, and he refused to stop until the very end.”

“When we see these young airmen like John Chapman exhibit extraordinary courage under the worst conditions,” it is an inspiration to all airmen, Goldfein said. Chapman was there for his teammates, an example that resonates in today’s Air Force.

The Air Force recognizes the importance of leadership by example at all levels – from NCOs, to squadron commanders, to generals – and is working now to find and develop the 21st century leaders it needs. Although “only” a tech sergeant, subsequently promoted to master sergeant, Chapman led by example. He did not let his buddies down. “We may look at what John did and say he is a hero, but then we are not one of his team or the other teams that go in where angels wouldn’t tread,” Chapman’s father, Gene Chapman, wrote to his son’s squadron commander after his son was killed. “John is proud to be a part of you, and if you ask him right now, he would tell you what he did was for his family, friends, and the teams he worked with.”

The Air Force is blessed to have airmen like Chapman, those willing to put others first regardless of the circumstances. May the Air Force continue to attract and develop America’s best, men and women who will lead by example.
German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge Weekend

By Lyle Evans

Over the weekend of 21-23 September 2018, I had the opportunity to compete for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, which is a test for all NCO and Officers in the German Armed forces. The event was held at Western Illinois University and was my first joint operation with all ROTC branches present. The test consisted of a Basic Fitness Test (BFT), a 100-meter swim in uniform that must be completed in under 4 minutes, a 25-meter pistol qualification with the M-9, and a ruck march. The first event, the BFT, took place on Friday at the track. The BFT was a standard fitness test consisting of three events, 11x10 meter sprint, flexed arm hang, and a half mile run, after completing the three events your score was averaged and put you on track to obtain a bronze, silver, or gold badge. After the BFT was concluded we returned to the gym, bought some food, and went to sleep so we could wake up early for the swimming event.

The event I was most worried about was the swim, as you had to swim 100 meters in under 4 minutes and then disrobe in the pool, you have PTGs under your ABUs. I was worried because this was a swim in uniform, which I hadn’t practiced, and I am not buoyant, when I jump into the pool, I immediately sink to the bottom. So, we made our way to the pool for the swim, and I initially felt somewhat confident after I looked at the pool, the pool was only 25 meters and I thought that would be a little better, I was wrong. This event tested my resolve. I failed my first attempt and went to remedial swim training, tested again and failed again. Cadre told me that I didn’t have to complete it today and that I could retest latter, but I took it as a challenge, that I would continue to test for however long it took to pass. I attempted my third try, this time attempting a frog stroke, and was so out of energy by the turn that it looked like I would drown in 3 feet of water, but I persisted. Before my fourth try, an Army Major took me aside and told me to use my legs more and a wider stroke, we even practiced it on the side of the pool. I jumped in for my fourth attempt and just started swimming. I wouldn’t quit, I continued to sink and flail, everyone was cheering for me even as
all the other cadets had left the pool. When I reached the other side, I was filled with pride, and exhausted. Taking off your ABUs in water was much easier, as it was untimed, and I would just sink into the water and remove articles of clothing. I felt highly accomplished when I was able to go to the bench where First Sergeant Cunningham sat and exclaimed that I had passed. I received a standing ovation in the locker room by the Loyola Army Cadets as we changed.

The shooting event was not something I initially worried about, as I have shot pistols before, and I had shot the M4 at LEAD, but I also failed that event initially. Captain Sacks, Midshipman Busalacchi, and Midshipman Cuartaro pulled me to the side and showed me a different grip to stabilize myself while shooting, I retested, and I still failed. On the Third attempt I tried something different, I tried the cup and saucer method for shooting. The cup and saucer method look awful and most people who shoot normally will tell you that it is not the proper way to fire a weapon, but it worked for me. On my third attempt I hit four out of five shots and qualified for silver. On Sunday the last event, the ruck march, took place. The ruck was split up by distance and time a 6k, 9k, and 12k to qualify for bronze, silver, or gold respectively. The event was timed, and you had to finish in 60 minutes for the bronze, 90 minutes for the silver, and 120 minutes for the gold. I had rucked before and my strategy was simple, slow and steady wins the race and only run on flat land when necessary. This worked out well, as I completed the silver medal time with enough time to sit and relax after.

This competition teaches you about yourself, it forced me out of my comfort zone and made me evaluate what type of person I was. I could have retaken the swim at a later date and given up, but I didn’t. I learned that the only way to truly lose it to quit, that I still had room to grow and learn, and to come out of my comfort zone and put it all out there. I experienced other ROTC detachments and had a blast talking to midshipmen and cadets from the Marine Corps, Navy, Army, and Air Force. This is an experience that I would recommend to any interested cadet, one that I am proud to say that I conquered, and an experience that I will remember for the rest of my life. Now I’m going to work on my swimming.
Upcoming Events

*Recruiting at North Central College:* 8 October. Contact C/4C Bird or C/4C Pollack if you are able to volunteer.

*Spartan Race:* C/Lt Col Horvat and C/1st Lt Franchi will be competing in a Spartan Race on 20 October, and there is still time for you to run alongside them – reach out to either of them if you have any questions.

*Recruiting at Loyola’s Open House:* 20 October. Contact C/3C Lutz or C/3C Barbhaya if you are able to volunteer.

*War for the Sword:* hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the first annual War for the Sword is a 7-event competition among several detachments taking place on 27 October. Contact C/1st Lt Szolek-Van Valkenburgh with any questions.

Cadet News Items

Congratulations to C/Lt Col Horvat and C/1st Lt Franchi on recently completing a Spartan race!

![Spartan Race Finishers](image1.jpg)

![Spartan Race Medalists](image2.jpg)

![Spartan Race Finishers](image3.jpg)
Thanks for Reading!