

# AFJROTC

Notes

News &

June 2019

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 HQ AF Junior ROTC

## From the Director...



**Colonel Paul C. Lips**  
AFJROTC Director

Congratulations on a very successful academic year 2018-2019! AFJROTC Cadets earned 5 Gold Valor, 13 Silver Valor, 88 Humanitarian, and 8 Community Service with Excellence awards. Additionally, Cadets completed nearly 1.7 million hours of community service. You were involved in activities that included local school events to hurricane relief. Well done!

To the graduating Cadets,

I hope you were able to achieve your unit and personal goals that you created at the start of the school year. Apply the lessons you learned in AFJROTC and you will succeed no matter the endeavor. This is not to say there won't be challenges and failures. I can guarantee there will be. If there are not failures you're not pushing yourself to achieve your fullest potential. Learn from those mistakes and grow. As Michael Jordan once said, "I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying." Whatever path you choose, to be successful will require teamwork, dedication, and lots of hard work. Go out and makes us proud!

To the returning Cadets,

Now is your chance to step up and help lead your fellow cadets. Embrace this opportunity. Take some time over the summer to prepare for your new leadership role. How would you like to see your next school year go? What about after graduation? You're going to hear this question many times in your life: "Where do you see yourself in five years?"

If you're participating in summer leadership activities use this opportunity to hone your skills and become a better leader. But also take time to enjoy the summer. Find that balance in your life between work and play. Before you know it, summer will be over and you will be leading.

Instructors,

Thank you. When you retired, you made that decision to give back to your community and the next generation of leaders. You are making a difference in so many lives. Your work is important, valued, and everybody at HQ AFJROTC appreciates each and every hour you put into this program.

Finally, I will retire from the Air Force this summer. It has been a great honor to lead this important program. I will always be an AFJROTC advocate. Enjoy your summer!

Respectfully,

Paul C. Lips, Col, USAF

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# Curriculum Update...

## Financial Readiness

In an effort to provide Leadership Education Elective material that is more in line with AFJROTC curriculum, we have been working the Financial Education Foundation to develop financial literacy materials that directly align with Chapters 1, 2, and Chapter 4, Lesson 1 of *LE-300 Life Skills and Career Opportunities*. Units may order 1 DVD containing YDraw videos and 1 DVD containing the digital copies of financial readiness pamphlets/workbooks. Units will be responsible for printing the financial readiness pamphlets/workbooks from the DVD. **Unlike other financial readiness courses, you will be able to print the pamphlets/workbooks in either English or Spanish versions.**

Additional information for this new financial readiness can be found in the 2019 Curriculum Guide and CMPF, both will be posted on: WINGS/Published Files/ AFJROTC Curriculum/Curriculum Guide or CMPF.

## Curriculum in Revision Status

There are currently three textbooks in revision for AFJROTC. *LE-400 Fundamentals of Management*, *AS-300 Exploring Space 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, and soon work will begin on *AS-220 Cultural Studies: An Introduction to Global Awareness*.



If you have further questions Financial Readiness, or any other curriculum issues please feel free to contact me at: [michael.wetzel.5@us.af.mil](mailto:michael.wetzel.5@us.af.mil) or call me at: 334-953-7236.

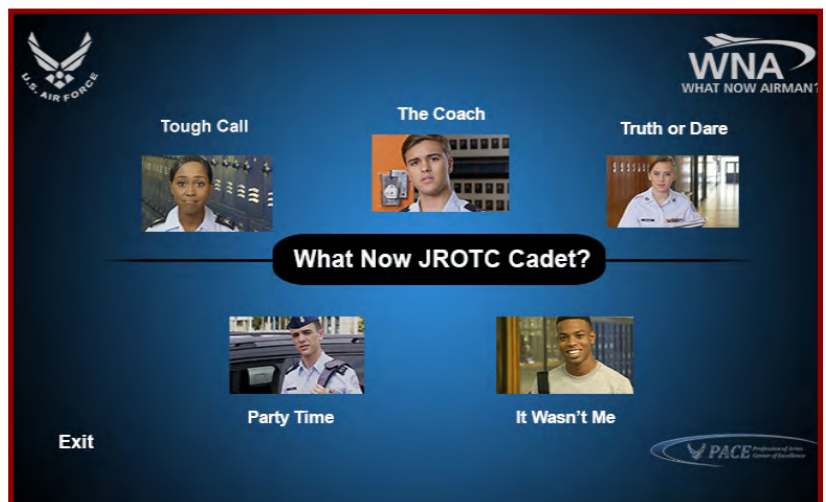
## What Now JROTC Cadet?

The Profession of Arms Center of Excellence (PACE) and the Jeanne M. Holm Center have teamed up to produce an interactive DVD program to enhance character maturity for JROTC cadets based on our Air Force Core Values and Virtues. The What Now lessons present moral and ethical “gray areas” to address decision making and spur discussion within the target audience.

The What Now JROTC Cadet DVD has five different ethical scenarios. Each scenario begins with a main character who explains a situation and a dilemma the situation presents. Then, 4 - 5 additional characters provide their perspective of the situation and what they would do. The final character provides either a mentor’s perspective based on personal experiences or an “authoritative” perspective.

When facilitated properly, these lessons can foster habits of mind that lead to moral courage and ethical judgement. Additionally, these lessons can help foster mental agility, adaptive behavior, and diversity of thought.

The What Now material is not tied to any specific curriculum area nor particular grade level, so a scenario can be worked in with lessons you have already planned or a scenario can be used as a just-in-time tool to foster discussion based on a moral or ethical “gray area” situation in the school, district, state, nation, etc.



If you have additional questions about the What Now JROTC production or how to go about receiving a copy of this outstanding character development DVD, please feel free to contact me via email at [james.damato.4@us.af.mil](mailto:james.damato.4@us.af.mil) or via phone at 334-953-0337.



## AIR FORCE JROTC DRILL TEAMS FOR THE WIN

By SCOTT W. BROKAW, Col, USAF (ret), Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, AFJROTC Eagle River

Congratulations to our Air Force JROTC drill teams for winning the Alaska JROTC State Drill Championships on Saturday at Service H.S. with 13 schools competing. A special congrats to our Varsity Color Guard and



Members of AK-20061 receive the Traveling Alaska State Championship Trophy.

First Year Color Guard teams for finishing in first place and taking state! Our First Year Unarmed Regulation Drill Team and our Armed Regulation teams both finished in second place! More importantly, our cadets won the large schools academic award with an average GPA of 3.54. All cadets should be very proud of their commitment and success during this drill season! For their efforts, we earned both the Marine Corps sponsored Coastal Championship Trophy and the traveling Alaska State Championship Trophy.

Team members are:

**Varsity Color Guard** – Bryson Jones, Daniel Stone, Chloe Silkmitter and Color Guard Commander, Alexia Jennings

**First Year Color Guard** – Devin Wilcox, Kristoffer Groom, Cayden Shade, and Color Guard Commander, Sarah Price

**Regulation Unarmed** – Bryson Jones, Chris Hunt, Alex Ayala, Conlon Rishel, Erik Pinyati, Mackenzie Wilson, Rylee Price, Ethan Jennings, Rachel Ninan, Kristen Brightbill, Orion Kimp, and Commander, Chloe Silkmitter

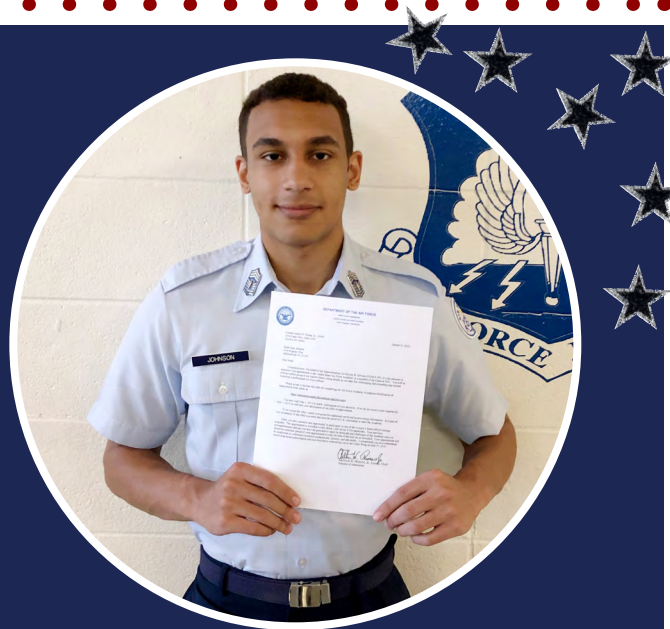
**First Year Unarmed Regulation** – Sarah Price, Kris Groom, Avery White, Gabe Ingram, Elanah Shaff, Jasmine Frederick, David Murray, Cayden Shade, Eric Scott, Logan Wilson, Anthony Combs, Caleb Tysinger, and Commander, Devin Wilcox.

**Armed Regulation** – Mackenzie Wilson, Alexia Jennings, Ethan Jennings, Daniel Stone, Chloe Silkmitter, Bryson Jones, Christopher Hunt, Conlon Rishel, Alex Ayala, and Commander Will West.

Chief and I are extremely proud of all their efforts!

### Appointment to the United States Air Force Academy

Congratulations to Cadet CMSgt Mark Johnson of Air Force JROTC IN-061 at Jeffersonville High School in Jeffersonville, Indiana for his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. In addition to being active in the Air Force JROTC program, Cadet Johnson is a varsity wrestler and on the varsity cross country team. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council and Radio & TV Broadcasting. Cadet Johnson will be the first student in over 7 years from Jeffersonville High School to receive an appointment to one of the service academies. Congratulations again, Cadet Johnson!



## **AFJROTC CADETS REACH STELLARXPLORERS SEMIFINALS**

A team of Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) cadets from Battle Ground High School reached the semifinal round of StellarXplorers, a national space system design competition. The BGHS cadets placed 17th overall out of 280 teams from JROTC, Civil Air Patrol, and STEM school programs across the United States.

Led by team captain Cadet Braden Morrison and mentored by Senior Aerospace Science Instructor Lt. Col. (ret) Andy Woodrow, the team includes cadets Ethan Tawwater, Wyatt Moody, and Seamus O'Neil. This is the third year BGHS cadets have participated in the event, and this year's team is the first to reach the semifinal round.

To compete, the cadets completed three 6-hour satellite launch simulations using software and techniques developed for NASA and other commercial space exploration programs. Cadets also took an exam covering space operations.

"The tasks are aligned with our curriculum in Exploration of Space, but the team must really dig into their math skills, understanding of space payloads, and time management during the competition in order to be successful," Lt. Col. Woodrow said. The team learned this week that they had reached the semifinals. StellarXplorers was developed by the Air Force Association to inspire and motivate high school students to pursue studies and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM fields. Visit [www.StellarXplorers.org](http://www.StellarXplorers.org) for more information about the program.

## **EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO**

8 May 19

By C/Lt Col Ty Odom, TX-20025 Cadet Commander  
Akins High School, Austin, TX 78748

Last semester's TX-20025 cadet commander, C/Col Monique M. Rottmann, is also Akins High School's VALADICTORIAN! She is the #1 cadet in our AFJROTC program and she's the #1 student at Akins High School. She was last semester's cadet commander and has displayed the discipline and leadership to obtain our highest cadet rank, and our top corps position. She is an exceptional leader and has consistently displayed the highest degree of personal responsibility.

Cadet Rottmann is mature beyond her years. Not only does she maintain a solid 100% grade in her AFJROTC class, she has a resounding 4.5 GPA in all of her classes. She takes on an overwhelming amount of responsibility, from greeting and briefing our visitors to instructing our freshman classes. She manages our cadet corps, contributes her time to the National Honor Society, and she won several awards competing with our Business Professionals of America. She accomplishes these tasks with discipline, dedication, tenacity, and enthusiasm. She sets an example for all of us to follow. She has directed and lead all of our ceremonies, color guards, community service activities, fundraisers, field trips, and ALL school events. She excels in all she does.

I asked Cadet Rottmann how she is able to accomplish all she does. She gave me her daily schedule:

### Regular Schedule

4:50 am - homework  
5:20 am - Sleep  
7:20 am - wake up  
8:20 am - arrive at school  
8:30 am - put up flags  
9:00am - school starts  
11:10 am - lunch  
4:30 pm - Go to work  
5:30 pm - Go home, stay for a school/work event, stay and finish homework  
6:00 pm - Get home  
7:00 pm - Go to the gym  
8:30 pm - Eat dinner  
9:00 pm - shower  
9:30 pm - Homework  
12:00 pm - Study & extracurricular work  
1:30/2:00 am - Sleep





## DEVOTED JROTC CHIEF TEACHES LEADERSHIP, LIFE SKILLS

Toledo Has Led Scripps Ranch High Program For 10 Years

By Gloria Tran, San Diego Tribune

Ironing a shirt. Shining shoes. Gaining self-confidence. These are not skills focused on in high school. That's why the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) is referred to as a "family," and its top patriarch is "Someone You Should Know."

Master Sgt. Ferdinand Toledo has been the backbone of the CA-935th Scripps Ranch High School Air Force JROTC program for 10 years. He says the intangible life skills students gain in JROTC, such as looking after each other and working together in service to the community, can be learned only through experience. Hundreds of students have gone through the program over the years.

Raised in a military family in Mira Mesa, Toledo served in the Air Force for 20 years before retiring and becoming an aerospace science teacher and Air Force JROTC instructor at Scripps Ranch High.

And he has made a difference. The unit consistently ranks at or near the top among the 13 high schools in the San Diego Unified School District. In addition, the unit's teams — drill and academic — win top awards, including national competitions.

Toledo was named the nationwide Outstanding JROTC Instructor of the Year for the 2016-2017 school year. Locally, he was voted by his peers as the SRHS Teacher of the Year two years in a row and will vie for the district award again this year.

What makes Toledo the best of the best? His focus on values and the extra time he devotes to cadets, which his wife, Sylvia, says is more time than he's on the clock. But, she's very supportive. "It's part of him... he loves it," she says of his splitting time between his two "families."

What takes the extra time? Weekend team competitions, movie nights on campus, helping the cadets, and community volunteering, such as the 2018 SRHS Holiday Canned Food Drive, which raised a record 22,279 pounds for the San Diego Food Bank. And when the program was in jeopardy of losing its PE accreditation, Toledo devoted 250 hours of his own time to earn the credential to keep the program going.

Most importantly, he teaches students to become leaders. Cadet Maj. Evan Dicker, Scripps Ranch High senior and operations commander, as well as part of the district's joint brigade, says Toledo treats each cadet like family and "... keeps tabs on us but lets us lead as the individuals he raised us to be." Dicker says his four years with JROTC have contributed to who he is today.

"As soon as I joined the program, it seemed really clear that Master Sergeant Toledo was there to emphasize what was important in life and what wasn't," Dicker said. "It seemed (he) was always there ... helping us. From learning how to iron our own shirts to shine our shoes to being prepared for a drill competition ... It felt very clear that he would always be there no matter if I was struggling or succeeding."

Dicker plans to major in aerospace engineering. According to Toledo, only 2 percent of cadets nationwide join the armed forces.

Toledo is humbled by the success and shares the accolades with the cadets. What does JROTC mean to him? "Everything. I get the wonderful opportunity to work with amazing students every single day. ... The longer I do this, the more grateful I am, especially seeing these kids blossom and grow as young adults ... within months, you see changes, positive changes."

Toledo exemplifies the SRHS JROTC motto: "More than a corps, we are a family."





# Unit News...



## DE-941 RECOGNIZED BY STATE LEGISLATURE

Caesar Rodney High School, DE-941 from Camden, Delaware is recognized by the State Legislature for being the National Champions in Armed Exhibition Drill at the 2019 Air Force National Open Drill Championships.

*This picture on the steps of Legislative Hall is of the Armed Exhibition Team that placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Armed Ex at AF Nationals. The Caesar Rodney AF JROTC Program was also recognized in the Proclamation for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Unarmed Exhibition at Nationals, Winning the State of Delaware JROTC Military Drill Championship for the 8<sup>th</sup> time in a row and being selected by JROTC HQ for the Distinguished Unit Award.*



## 2019 FLORIDA PUERTO RICAN PARADE

ORLANDO, FLORIDA— On April 27th, 2019, FL-861 cadets participated in the 3rd Annual Florida Puerto Rican Parade being held in Downtown Orlando. The parade route was on down Orange Avenue ending in front of City Hall and Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center. It was a successful event where our color guard, exhibition team, and members from our cadet corps showed off their patriotism, discipline and esprit-de-corps, while having fun. FL-861 is proud to represent a school deeply embedded within the Puerto Rican and Latino community where Hispanics make up 73.9% (2017-18) of the student body at Colonial High School. We would like to thank Florida Puerto Rican Parade, Inc. for allowing us to take part in a piece of Orlando history and we hope to continue this tradition of marching onwards into the future.



*Cadets from FL-861 participating in the 3rd Annual Florida Puerto Rican Parade.*



## The Spirit of Citizenship is Alive and Well

*By Lt Col (ret) Charles K. Farmer  
Niceville High School, Senior Aerospace Science Instructor*

The new Niceville City Senior Center came to life this Spring with the residents from the community's retirement centers. It is called the Senior Olympics and is sponsored by Good Samaritan Outreach but its impact reaches many more than just the participants. For the second year in a row the Niceville High School Air Force JROTC cadets, the FL-33rd, were on hand to help. We got the call last year to set up the games and to help the participants as they competed. That year the event was held at a single location and was just for their in-resident members. Since there were a number of retired veterans they called the FL-33rd and invited our participation. The cadets jumped at the chance but they were not fully prepared for the impact it would have on them. The participants varied in their physical abilities and required much more interaction than expected and many had not had visitors in a long time. This first year we took eight mostly senior cadets who walked away from the event changed. The ride home from the event held little conversation as they contemplated the time they spent with the residents. They were visibly touched by their encounter but pledged to continue the event each year.

This year the event was expanded to include multiple retirement centers all meeting at one location. We took cadets from all AS levels and prepared them for the event but not what we were doing but who we would be doing it with. The cadets were led by Benjamin Kot who would later be selected as the SY2019-2020 first semester Corps Commander and Cadet Elise LeMire who is his Deputy Corps Commander. They prepared the team to encounter those with physical difficulties, some with mental

challenges and some struggling to deal with both on their own. These cadets performed above even my expectations. The care they took with each of the residents made it abundantly clear they understood the meaning of Service Before Self and were prepared to put it into action. Their patience and



*Cadet Benjamin Kot – keeping score and helping each competitor when their turn comes*

kindness won over the staff and residents in short order. And I knew I was witnessing the growth of our future leaders, not for just the next school year or in JROTC, but for our country. Leadership paired with compassion and a sensitivity to the needs of others.

I got to put in practice what I have been teaching the cadets to do; talk with veterans whenever possible to hear their experiences and stories firsthand. I spent the time getting to know a Vietnam Veteran who, upon leaving the military, became a Pastor. His optimism and outlook were inspiring both as he reflected on his service and how he continues service today. His eyes are blinded but he remains a servant to his fellow veterans and his community but is an inspiration to many more, me included.

The cadets of the FL-33rd make it a goal each year to engage with veteran's groups from our community. They seek out different ways to make a difference within our community by participating with organizations like Good Samaritan Outreach. Every time the cadets move from the classroom to the community and put into practice the Air Force Core Values they grow exponentially. They get to observe and experience lessons from past generations that will help them make a lasting impact on their generation.



*Cadet Riley Sitter – Helping each competitor with a big heart and smile*



## VOLUNTEER THE BRIDGE

*By Major Dale Lightfoot, SASI, TN-20021*

During the 2018-2019 school year, the cadets and family members of AFJROTC TN-20021 partnered with The Bridge Ministries in Nashville on 14 separate Tuesday evenings to help feed and clothe the less fortunate in downtown Nashville.

The weekly service began in 2004 when one woman, Sheila Weathers, took a crockpot of jambalaya to seven homeless men because she saw them on her drive home from work and felt a calling to do something. Every Tuesday night throughout the year, regardless of if a holiday falls on it, the homeless are offered meals and ministry in a non-judgmental, caring environment.



*Cadets Alex Griffis, Michelle Ayala, Brady Pentecost and Brian Escun fill one of the weekly regulars (Miss Mary) bag with sweet potatoes for this week's meals.*



*37 Cadets and 8 AFJROTC family members linked up with Tennessee Titans player Delanie Walker on Tuesday, 23 Apr 19 to distribute food and smiles to the evenings guests.*

Byard, Delanie Walker (pictured with the cadets) and Brett Kern and the Titans cheerleaders. The cadets had no idea the Titans were there to serve and then thank them for their hours of service this year. Many cadets were able to get autographs and pictures taken with the Titans, one even had his forehead signed by his favorite player.

The cadets whole-heartedly embraced the opportunity to serve this year across Robertson County and in Nashville. One cadet, Zach Johnson, called the experience "humbling" and another cadet, Isabella Munday, called it the most rewarding experiences of high school. We assured The Bridge Ministry this year was just the beginning of a long relationship between them and Air Force Junior ROTC.

This year, 233 cadets spent 804 hours serving up smiles, warm meals and packed thousands of to-go bagged groceries donated by local food banks and grocery stores. The Bridge Ministry Chief Operating Officer, Jennifer Ranson, raved about the cadets showing up during the coldest and wettest days of the winter. She stated, "the cadets run the show and make such a difference to not just our guests, but our Bridge Ministry staff as well!"

On 23 April 2019, the cadets were joined by Tennessee Titans players: Corey Davis, Ryan Succop, Kevin



*Cadet Isabella Munday shares some limes, a smile and kind words with one of the Volunteer the Bridge guests of the evening, Tuesday, 23 April 2019*



# News & Noteworthy...



*Cadets of NY-773 escorted 24 Medal of Honor recipients at JFK international airport on 23 March 2019.*



*(L-R) Colonel Don Edmands, Jr., USAF (Ret) presents medals to Cadet Major Thomas Tefft, Cadet Lt Col Evan Richardson, and Cadet Major Madison Lobre at Spangdahlem (AFB) High*



## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

We require your help in developing a quality AFJROTC newsletter product.

**ARTICLES** - Please submit in a Word document with pictures attached separately, not embedded in document.

**AUTHOR(S)** - Please clearly identify the author(s) of the articles. (and titles too)

**PICTURES** - Cell phone pictures require much lengthier editing techniques to appear as quality photos ... and sometimes it is not possible to correct them. Please try to not submit cell phone pictures. Hi-resolution photos are needed.

**PICTURE RELEASES** - Ensure each picture has a parental signed release form.

**PICTURE CAPTIONS** - We absolutely would love to be able to identify the action in the photos with the identities of those involved. However, many pictures are not always clearly identified with this information.



*The mission of AFJROTC is to "Develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community."*

*The objectives of JROTC are to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship, promote community service, instill ideals of responsibility, character, and self-discipline, and provide instruction in air and space fundamentals.*

*The AFJROTC program is grounded in the Air Force core values of "integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do."*