

January 2020



AFJROTC NEWS & NOTES

WELCOME 2020!

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From the Director..

Greetings everyone and Happy New Year! Welcome to 2020! I sincerely hope all of you had a great holiday break and were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. To our seniors graduating this year, what an exciting time for you as you approach a major milestone in life. We are all excited for you and I know no matter what you choose to do after graduation, you will take the life lessons you learned in Air Force Junior ROTC with you!

For the cadets recently selected to the Summer 2020 Flight Academy, congratulations! You are about to embark upon an extremely challenging yet rewarding experience. Completing the program this summer will be one of the toughest tests you've ever faced. I trust that you know what a privilege this opportunity is and that you represent the entire Air Force Junior ROTC entity while you are at your university. Our expectation is your conduct is representative of our core values. We look forward to each of you successfully completing the program this summer and earning your private pilots certificate. Make us proud!

This year we are entering a new partnership with an organization called CSforALL (Computer Science for All). The goal is to ensure all high schools hosting AFJROTC offers its student's computer science. We are planning to begin a summer scholarship program to incentivize our cadets to participate in CyberPatriot and the computer science courses offered at your high school. Both will be pre-requisites to apply for the summer scholarship program (Cyber Academy). This effort will be in a test phase this year at 30 schools. Our goal is ensure a successful model to implement AFJROTC-wide. Please look for more information coming out soon.

Over the past few months I've had the pleasure of visiting a number of units and had the chance to personally meet with some of you. Let me just say...**without question** this is absolutely the best part of being the National Director. I've left each unit inspired, invigorated, and quite frankly in awe of the impact Air Force Junior ROTC cadets make in our communities and our great nation.



Colonel Stephen T. Sanders
AFJROTC Director

Curriculum Corner



Mr. Kevin Reuter
Chief, AFJROTC Curriculum

Happy 2020! Please allow me to introduce myself as your new AFJROTC Curriculum Chief. My name is Kevin Reuter, retired Air Force 23 years and Civil Servant for 16 years. I have organized your Instructor Certification Courses for the last ten years and have enjoyed interacting with many of you during the classes. I stepped into my new role in December 2019, and I look forward to learning my new job and working with you to make a difference for America's youth. I've always admired what you folks do day-to-day in shaping the future, it's amazing.

I have 26 years of academic experience as a teacher, instructional designer, and e-learning specialist. Hope to leverage my talent set to make AFJROTC shine in our school systems. To quote Whitney Houston and George Benson, "I believe the children are our future. Teach them well and let them lead the way. Show them all the beauty they possess inside. Give them a sense of pride..."

Thank you for your continued service to our nation. I look forward to serving with **YOU!**

BOLO!!

As a result of inputs from the field and discussion during the recent JR21 event, Holm Center Academic Affairs is getting ready to field a curriculum survey to all units. The purpose of this survey is to establish what "could be" considered a potential starting point for a new instructor constructing an initial curriculum plan.

Experienced AFJROTC instructors realize they have a lot of flexibility when it comes to curriculum options and sequencing, but this can be daunting to a brand new instructor just joining the AFJROTC instructional team.

We want to thank you in advance for taking a few minutes of your valuable time to make life easier for the new instructors joining our team. Please be on the lookout in early February.



FYSA – AS 220 UNDER REVISION

Academic Affairs is in the process of rewriting *An Introduction to Global Awareness* course (AS 220). We are looking to incorporate more activity-based learning where your students could research, explore, and learn about different countries' cultures. We want to collaborate with units and capitalize on activities you have found successful, fun, and enlightening in your classrooms. Please e-mail your inputs by 6 Apr 20 to HQ-Curriculum@afjrotc.com or Mr. Jamie Damato at james.damato.4@us.af.mil.

We appreciate your input in making our curriculum more engaging for your students.

SHINING STARS

SILVER VALOR AWARD, AY 2019/2020

AZ-802

Cadet Malachi Stenger-Zook

CA-933

Cadet Nehemiah Taylor

IN-061

Cadet Charles Letson

NC-041

Cadet Kyle Nohren

NC-051

Cadet Narciso Alvarez
Cadet Alex Guzman

NV-031

Cadet Crofts
Cadet Berkedal
Cadet Tolliver

TX-861

Cadet Kotick

WA-20021

Cadet Ava Martin



Photos by Jennifer Denner

MAX IMPACT

On November 7, Max Impact performed for Unit VA-20012 at Chantilly High School. Outstandingly popular, the cadets had a great time, even dancing in a mosh pit in front of the stage. Max Impact performed many songs from Havana by Camilla Cabello to Walking on Sunshine by Katrina and the Waves. As a final piece, they performed an original they had written called American Airman. Then the cadets presented the band with some gifts from the Unit. Afterward, cadets had a meaningful Q&A session with the band. Everyone was so thankful that Max Impact took the time to come perform.



SD-061 CADET COLOR GUARD CIA TRIP

The South Dakota 61st AFJROTC Group (SD-061) was selected to perform a color guard for the SD High School Football Championship games on Friday, 15 November 2019. As part of this six-hour (in each direction) curriculum in action (CIA) trip across the state, six cadets participated in a leadership laboratory with their sister unit, AFROTC Detachment 780, at South Dakota State University (SDSU), participated in the SDSU "Jackrabbit Preview" and toured the SDSU Aviation Department. Three SD-061 cadets also participated in a joint AFROTC/ AFJROTC color guard prior to the SDSU/ University of Northern Iowa Football Championship Subdivision football game on Saturday, 16 November 2019. Six different SD-061 cadets will repeat this CIA trip in February and attend / present the colors at the SDSU / University of Nebraska Omaha double-header basketball games on Saturday, 8 February 2020, as well as visit the SD Air National Guard 141st Fighter Wing at Joe Foss Field, Sioux Falls, SD.

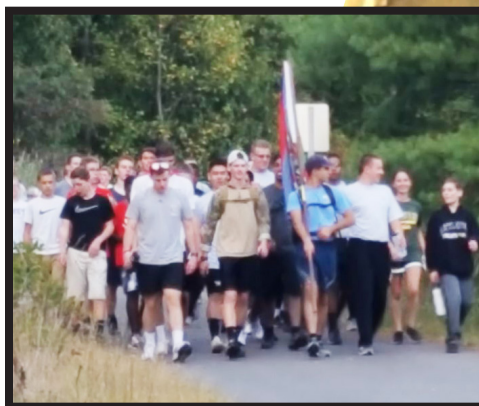


SD-061 cadet color guard at the SD High School Football Championship games on Friday, 15 Nov 19, are from left to right: C/SMSGT Skipper Valentin Lopez, C/1st Lt Makenzie Stine, C/TSgt Gabriella Hollen and C/1st Lt Zachary DeClercq.

VA-20061 Fundraiser

Last month, the Air Force Junior ROTC unit VA-20061 at Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Virginia, conducted a fundraiser for the Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) Association to coincide with their annual Bataan Death March memorial event. AFJROTC is a citizenship and character building program at roughly 900 high schools in 49 states, two US territories, and seven allied countries. Cadets earn a ribbon for completing fourteen miles to commemorate The Bataan Death March. In previous years, the cadets completed the distance in just over seven hours. However, this year Col (Ret) Dan Vasenko and SMSgt (Ret) Dave Shuler, AFJROTC instructors at Battlefield's AFJROTC program, came up with the idea to overlap a fundraiser for the TACP Association. Col Vasenko served as the 19 ASOS/DO and commanded the 20 ASOS and 807 EASOS in OEF.

The TACP Association donated a flag to serve as a pace counter, and 74 of VA-20061's 116 cadets and a few of Battlefield's faculty/staff kept it going non-stop for 24 hours to mirror the annual TACP Association annual fundraiser normally held in the spring. Due to standardized testing and AP exams for the cadets, the spring timeframe was impractical. An unexpected



The cadet group gets started en masse with the 24-hour TACP challenge at the end of the school day along one of the running routes adjacent to Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Virginia.

cold snap enveloped the weekend event, bringing temps down to just above freezing, but the cadets motored on with enthusiasm. When the day's event was finally over, the TACP flag covered 85.75 miles and averaged 16:42 minutes/mile. It was an impressive pace, given that the cadets weren't permitted to run with the



Before darkness fell, the running track at Battlefield HS was lit around its perimeter with light strings to mark the running route. Luminary bags with the names of twelve TACP members who've made the ultimate sacrifice also ringed the track. Cadets not running were able to take a break and warm up as temperatures dipped to near freezing.



Ms. Tina Fairbanks is the School Nurse for Battlefield High School and helped carry the TACP flag for several laps. Her son and daughter are both Battlefield HS alumni, with her daughter completed the AFJROTC program at VA-20061 before entering the Air Force Academy. Her son graduated from Clemson University's AFROTC program. Both are now USAF officers.

funds will go toward taking care of the families of fallen and injured TACP members. Next year, the VA-20061 plans to partner with the other AFJROTC programs in Prince William County, VA, with the eventual goal of it being a worldwide event for all 900 AFJROTC programs. To learn more about the TACP Association, please visit their web site at www.tacpassociation.org. To learn about the TACP career field, please visit <https://www.airforce.com/careers/detail/tactical-air-control-party-specialist-tacp>.



Col Vasenko's TACP Association coin from when he was the Commander for the 20th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Drum, New York.

Cdt Col Ellie Knudson, Cadet Group Commander for Battlefield High School's AFJROTC program, and Col (Ret) Dan Vasenko, Senior Air Science Instructor for VA-20061, with the check for \$3,251.80 for the TACP Association.

Veterans Day 2019 at Tivy High School



By Cadet Olivia Hallett

From the early morning of Saturday the 9th to the mid-day of November 11th, Tivy Air Force Junior ROTC cadets took great pride in honoring our local veterans in a very special way. From leading a parade at the Veterans Administration

hospital to conducting their very own ceremony hosted by Tivy High School where local veterans and veteran groups were welcomed and invited to attend. With the Tivy cadet corps almost 120 strong there was no shortage of enthusiasm by the cadets as they practiced and prepared every detail to properly honor our local heroes and salute each of them. We didn't let the bad weather outside keep us from rendering a proper salute and a "thank you" to our veterans and their families.

The Corps was honored to have Col William Cathey, USAF (Ret), join us as our guest speaker for the



ceremony and share his courageous story during Vietnam. Although it is difficult to fully grasp and understand the hardships our veterans faced during this time, we certainly appreciate their service and heroism towards our nation. We will not forget

what they did and their service and sacrifice to our great nation.

Along with Col Cathey, we were also honored to have the Mayor of Kerrville, Dr. Bill Blackburn, representatives from American Legion, the Kerrville Veterans Association, the Military Order of the World Wars, the Vietnam Veterans Association of America, and other distinguished veterans organizations, as well as the staff and faculty from Kerrville Independent School District, local veterans from each branch of the military, and the parents of our cadet Corps.

Cadets of CA-20161 Honored at the Mayor's Ball

By Cadet Capt Cornel, Merrill F. West High School

On Friday, November 8, 2019, the cadets of Merrill F. West High School (CA-20161) were honored, along with several other organizations, by Mayor Robert Rickman of Tracy, CA, at the 2019 Mayor's Ball. The cadet corps was recognized for its youth leadership and community service. The Ball was attended by approximately 200 city officials and residents; including ten CA-20161 cadets, ASI, and SASI. The ten cadets, along with teens from other organizations that were honored, gave their support to the Ball by posting colors, greeting guest and serving tables at the event. The Mayor's Ball is an annual event that raise money and awareness benefiting local charities and youth leadership. The funds donated to CA-20161 will be used to support leadership activities, STEM-based projects, and the military ball. The cadets of CA-20161 would like to thank the Mayor, honorees, sponsors, and the citizens of Tracy for their great support.



Cadets, and Mayor Rickman of Tracy, CA, pose for a picture at the Mayor's Ball (From left; C/2nd Lt. Baria, C/Capt. Cornel, C/1st Lt. Duncan, C/2nd Lt. Aguirre, C/Capt. Ramos, C/Maj. Litzau, C/SSgt Feliciano, C/1st Flores, C/Lt. Col Vernon, C/2nd Lt. Vernon, and Mayor Rickman).



Cadets of CO-20101 marching in the Denver Veteran's Day Parade.

CO-20101 Cadet Cadre Honors Veterans in Denver

The cadets of Stealth Squadron (CO-20101), representing Mapleton Public Schools in Thornton, Colorado participated in the Denver Veterans' Day Parade on Saturday, November 9, 2019. Eighty cadets participated in the Vietnam War portion of the parade and honored veterans from that conflict. Well over 35,000 people came out to watch the parade and Veterans' Day festivities.

In addition to marching in the parade, 13 Stealth Squadron cadets dressed in period attire from World War II and the Korean War and marched with personnel in that section of the parade. The vintage uniforms were donated by The Audie L. Murphy Infantry Museum. The mission of the museum is to educate the general public about America's military veterans from WWII and into the 21st Century. The cadets loved wearing the uniforms and getting a ride in a vintage jeep. The Stealth squadron cadets looked great that day!



Stealth Squadron cadets dressed in period attire for the World War II and Korean War sections of the Veteran's Day parade.



Alton HS AFJROTC Cadets and Design Winner break ground for the Alton HS War Memorial.

AFJROTC Cadets Honor Fallen Graduates

A groundbreaking Nov 2 at Alton High School launched the building of a war memorial monument to honor Alton High School graduates who gave their lives in military service since World War I. The Alton High School War Memorial will be completed this coming spring.

The project started two years ago when an old plaque was found in a school closet. The plaque contained the names of school graduates that died serving in World I, World War II and the Korean War. Alton High School AFJROTC cadets spent hours researching old year books and county records to verify the names on the plaque and update the list adding names from the Vietnam and Iraq Wars.

Cadets painted a mural on the wall outside of the AFJROTC classroom depicting patriotic artwork and the updated list of names. Last year cadets expressed a desire to take the project to the next level. They wanted the commemoration of these veterans to be more public. Fundraising efforts started, along with a design competition, for what would become a physical monument outside of Alton High School at the front entrance.

The memorial will not only honor those who gave their lives, it will serve as a teaching and learning tool. The space will include benches displaying character traits from the Medal Of Honor Character Development Program. In this way educators and students can use the memorial for assignments and discussions about these veterans and character traits like courage, sacrifice and commitment.



Alton HS War Memorial Design Winner Naomi Fader.

Honoring Pearl Harbor: Youth Learn About Realities of War at ‘Sacred Steel’ Exhibit in Mesa

*By Molly Duerig, Arizona Republic,
Published Dec. 7, 2019*

Members of the Arizona Commemorative Air Force unveiled a recovered section of steel from the sunken battleship USS Arizona in a ceremony held Saturday afternoon at the Airbase Arizona Museum in Mesa in honor of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. The USS Arizona sunk at Pearl Harbor 78 years ago when Japanese forces bombed the ship, killing 1,177 crew members.

Mesa Mayor John Giles spoke at the ceremony for “Sacred Steel,” tearing up almost immediately upon beginning to address the crowd. He said it’s hard to think of a family that wasn’t in some way impacted by the events of Pearl Harbor, recalling how his own father was drafted into the military shortly after Dec. 7, 1941. “The trauma and national tragedy of that day, I think is felt even today, 78 years later,” Giles said. Giles noted that adults made up most of the crowd of more than a hundred attendees at Saturday’s ceremony. “As important as those events were, what a travesty it would be if we didn’t teach the lessons of that experience to the young people of our community,” Giles said.

He challenged the crowd to commit to sharing information about World War II with younger generations. He asked attendees to return to the Airbase Arizona Museum with young people to explain to them what happened

— especially, “the commitment that we all made at the end of that war — that it would be the last, and that we would learn the lessons of that horrible experience.” “We owe that to our children,” Giles said, becoming emotional again.



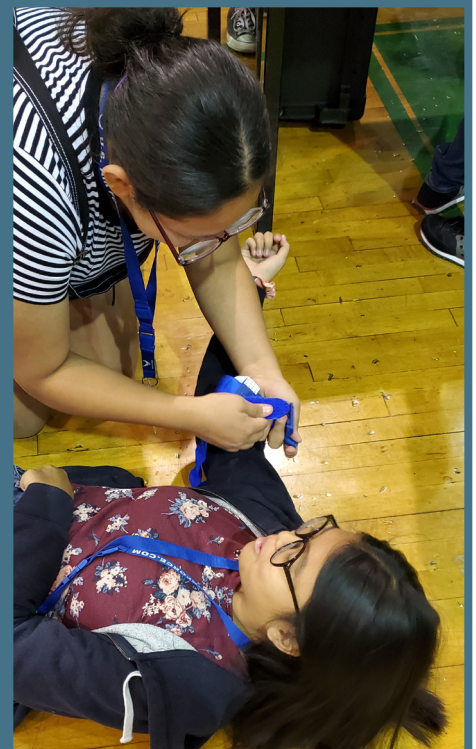
From left: Armando Martinez, Rhett Crandall, Yoshua Uribe, Belle Jackson, Samuel Flores and Melanie Lopez Escalona pose for a photo in front of the piece of steel from the USS Arizona that was unveiled at the Airbase Arizona Museum in Mesa on Dec. 7, 2019. Molly Duerig/The Republic



STOP THE BLEED

Over the course of the previous two weeks, Rancho cadets (NV-031) were trained by Nellis AFB members on the Stop the Bleed curriculum.

During the month of November, 250 cadets from NV-031, Rancho High School, were trained and certified in the national Stop the Bleed curriculum by members of the Nellis Air Force Base medical and security forces units. The curriculum, sponsored by the American College of Surgeons, gives these cadets the information and training necessary to react during a crisis situation.



LA Trip

By: C/1Lt Yazmin Vega

During the weekend of October 18th through 20th, Palo Verde High School's AFJROTC visited Edwards Air Force Base and March Air Field Museum. This trip was especially significant due to the distance that the cadets traveled, venturing from Las Vegas, Nevada to Los Angeles, California. During this trip, cadets were exposed to various aspects of aviation history, and were able to view a multitude of different aircraft.

On Friday, cadets departed Palo Verde High School and arrived at Edwards Air Force Base, California after a four hour bus ride. Edwards Air Force Base is the Air Force Material Command center of excellence for research, development, and evaluation of aerospace systems.



The cadets especially enjoyed being able to take a large group picture in front of the SR-71 Blackbird. At the museum, cadets were given a tour, and following that tour, were able to walk around, view aircrafts, and ask questions about different exhibits. After departing the museum, cadets stopped at a nearby park and were able to eat some very yummy MRE's for lunch.

Finishing up their delicious lunch, cadets were then separated into various groups for a friendly competition against each other at the bowling alley. After strenuous activity cadets were able to visit the recreational center. At the rec center, cadets participated in a fun group bonding exercise. The cadets boarded the bus and began the drive to Los Angeles, California to get some well needed rest.



On Saturday, cadets were able to enjoy a day at Disneyland filled with wet clothes, lots of walking, and lots of food.

On Sunday, cadets toured the March Air Field Museum. March Air Field Museum strives to promote an understanding of humanity's reach for the sky and of March Field's pivotal role in the development of

flight. Cadets were separated into two tour groups where they learned about aircraft and their significance in history. After the tours, cadets were able to walk around and view over 80 aircraft on their own and ask questions regarding the 30,000 artifacts. After leaving the museum, cadets stopped for lunch in Barstow before arriving back at Palo Verde High School, concluding their trip.

Overall, the trip allowed cadets to learn about various aspects of aviation history while allowing time for relaxation, which resulted in an enjoyable, educational weekend. The distance along with the experience created a memory that the cadets will never forget.

18th AIR FORCE COMMANDER RETURNS HOME FOR VISIT

Cadets of AL-011 welcomed Major General Sam Barrett, 18th Air Force Commander to Robert E. Lee High Scholl in Montgomery, Alabama. General Barrett is a Class of '84 alumnus. He addressed the cadets on overcoming challenges and striving for excellence, while sharing his fondest memories as a Lee student-athlete.



C/1LT Tenea Wallen receives Maj Gen Barrett's coin.



AFJROTC CADETS TAKE ON THE LEADERSHIP REACTION COURSE

AL-011 cadets from Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, Alabama work together to solve a series of obstacles designed to foster teamwork, communication and critical thinking skills as part of the Officer Training School Leadership Reaction Course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

ALABAMA AFJROTC UNIT RECOGNIZED BY AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

The Air Force Association, Chapter 102 recognized Robert E. Lee High School (AL-011) in Montgomery, Alabama as the 2019 Outstanding AFJROTC Unit of the Year for the State of Alabama during a ceremony on Maxwell Air Force Base.



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."