GAMA Cup Brings Detachment Together

On April 10th, 46 of Det 165’s cadets will travel to Auburn University in Alabama to compete in the 2010 GAMA Cup. GAMA Cup is an annual inter-collegiate sports competition involving more than 250 cadets from AFROTC detachments all over the Southeast, including Georgia Tech, UGA, Clemson, and others. One may ask why AFROTC invests so much time and energy into such competitions when the primary focus is officer training. The answer is that competition through athletics is an effective training method in disguise. No matter a person’s background, socioeconomic status, or spiritual belief, sports bring people together on both sides of the field. Det 165’s cadets have been training and practicing for GAMA Cup since the beginning of February and cohesion among them, even in the different events, is at an all-time high. Usually cadets are constantly training for the PFA, which is an individual score and based on individual responsibly, but GAMA Cup has brought the word ‘us’ back into conversations. Instead of “I will do well,” the phrase “We will do well” has become even more common.

Even more encouraging is seeing cadets volunteer to be captains, lead their team in practices, and coordinate team rosters. As the GAMA Cup coordinator for the Detachment, I am amazed to see how well everyone is working together on something that is entirely volunteer-based. I have many high expectations for Georgia Tech’s team this year, one of which is bringing back the trophy.
Historian

For this month’s article I decided to do something different. Instead of discussing previous history about our Air Force I want to talk about current issues going on today. The Air Force has always prided itself on technology and the use of cellular and global positioning devices, but recently the military seems to be changing its ways. I’m sure everyone in our detachment can relate to this in some way being that everyone owns an iPhone, a BlackBerry (especially), or regular cellular devices.

Many jobs in the service require the issuing of BlackBerry devices to be used on the job site. Blackberrys are becoming ubiquitous in the service. In December, the Air Force reported that it had 45,000 of the devices, up from 30,000 just 18 months before. Last week, the Air Force introduced sweeping changes to boost Blackberry security. Among other things, the service will disable most Bluetooth functionality. The only Bluetooth feature that will continue to work will be the smartcard reader cradle, a device that holds the user’s Common Access Card. The Air Force’s nearly 50,000 Blackberrys are not quite so handy anymore. The new measures also mean users will not be able to receive text messages with attached photos or videos and they will also restrict users from downloading additional apps to their handheld device.

Software on the devices will be automatically updated. Users will get only have one chance to decline their software update while syncing, and any subsequent attempts to sync will disable the Blackberry until it is updated. The service is making the changes to protect against cyber attacks, according to 24th Air Force, which is responsible for cyber security. The Defense Information Security Agency (DISA) recently determined that security can be enhanced if certain nonessential functions are disabled on hand-held devices, and the Air Force changes are meant to comply with DISA standards, according to Capt. Bob Krause, a spokesman for the 24th Air Force. The good news for Airmen is they won’t have to bring their devices in to be serviced. The changes will be implemented through the Air Force network.

It’s part of a larger shift requiring Blackberry and Windows mobile devices to be Public Key Infrastructure enabled, so they can send and receive secure e-mail messages. The Blackberry crackdown seems driven by the service’s focus on cyber security. For instance, the Air Force has been reluctant to rescind a ban on thumb drives and other removable media, despite a new Pentagon directive that encourages access. In addition to the new restrictions on texting, downloading and Bluetooth, airmen will see these changes, if a device is being synched and its software is out of date, a “Force Load” message will appear. The user will have only one opportunity to decline updating the software. Any subsequent syncing attempts will render the device inoperative until the software is updated. Users will no longer be able to connect their smart card reader cradle to their computers.

“Just as physical security measures at forward and stateside bases are constantly being improved to meet current threats, so also are cyber protection measures taken to protect DoD (Department of Defense) information,” said Maj. Gen. Richard Webber, 24th Air Force commander, in the report.
As the spring semester comes closer to its end, Field Training Prep cadets are beginning to feel the summer heat from Maxwell AFB already. Flight Commanders and other POC have begun to ramp up the intensity to help FTP cadets learn what they must do in order to be ready for FT. Aside from their own preparation outside of official activities, Det 165 offers three main learning opportunities to prepare cadets to attend FT: Leadership Lab, Warrior Thursdays, and the FT Prep class. These three outlets are designed to ensure that Det 165 cadets attending FT this summer will be able to perform well and uphold Det 165’s reputation as the best AFROTC detachment in the Southeast.

LLAB is the main opportunity for cadets to showcase their leadership abilities and to identify the areas where improvement is needed. LLABs on Tuesdays are held at Peters Parking Deck, and are used by Ops Group to have FTP cadets demonstrate their skill at leading a flight in drill. FTP cadets are picked to run through FT procedures that they will need upon arrival at FT this summer. Road guard, dining facility, and inspection procedures have all been covered so far, and with several more weeks of LLAB left, there is room for plenty of further education. IMT cadets are given the opportunity to perfect their marching, learn from mistakes, and observe what lies in store for them next year.

Thursdays at LLAB are used to have cadets lead and run through Group Leadership Projects, or GLPs, and work on developing their leadership style, running their OODA loops, and solving problems. FTP cadets are chosen by their POC Flight Commander to lead their flights in each problem solving exercise, and afterwards are evaluated on their performance during the GLP. IMT cadets use the time allotted to work on their followership skills as well as observe and learn from the actions of the FTP cadets.

At Warrior Thursdays, GMC cadets hone their marching, flight commanding, and inflection. Flight Commanders put cadets through their paces in a more relaxed manner than LLAB, and usually talk about their own FT experiences, as well as tips and tricks to aid in cadets’ FT success.

In addition to LLAB and Warrior Thursdays, CW/CC has instituted a new FT Prep class which meets on Sunday afternoons. The class is run by CW/CC and other POC who wish to help 200s and 250s prepare for FT. Typically, a GLP is used to help cadets become more knowledgeable about the contents of their FTM and such subjects as dorm maintenance, dining procedures and GLPs. As a result, cadets have an opportunity to work on both FT knowledge and their leadership skills at the same time.

These three avenues where FTP cadets can continue to sharpen the skills necessary for FT, in addition to personal preparation and study, will help to ensure that Det 165 is well-represented at Maxwell AFB and CSJFTC this summer.
While most cadets were taking a break from the rigors of college and cadet life, a few members the recruiting group spent the first Sunday afternoon of GT Spring Break at good ol’ det 165. Cadets and I showed up prepared to give an informative briefing, answer a series of questions and be on our way to enjoy the clear 73° weather. However, compared to the recently implemented, new and more effective approach used for recruiting events, this was one like no other.

As early as one hour prior to show time, young high school students and their parents began packing out the detachment auditorium; all of them were there to determine whether the US Air Force Academy (USAFA) or ROTC would be a part of their futures. Leading the informational session were 2 Admission Liaison Officers, Lt Col Compagno and Major Trinquero, who all happened to be academy graduates. In addition, AFROTC cadets teamed up with USAFA cadets to provide the crowd with firsthand accounts of the pros and cons of the two commissioning sources.

If you don’t already know, there exists a playful rivalry between USAFA and AFROTC cadets for many years. This became apparent, that afternoon, when all cadets had five minutes to talk about our experiences and give a few words of advice to the high school students. On the USAFA side, the main emphasis was the level of camaraderie developed over four years of intense academic and military training in Colorado Springs, CO. A USAFA cadet noted that “...at the Academy things may be rough, but we are all going through the same struggles, which create a bond that follows us into active duty. You cannot find that anywhere else.” On the other hand, we used the ease and freedom associated with "normal" college life to emphasize joining AFROTC. "When I wake up in the morning, going to class is a choice that I make. We learn about the importance of management, making the right decisions, and being accountable for our actions," stated a Cadet. Nonetheless, all of us did agree that no matter what commissioning source the students chose, he/she would be making a well respected decision to join the world’s greatest Air Force.

Overall, that Sunday afternoon recruiting event was a great success. Whoever said that it never hurts to add a little ROTC into your Spring Break was absolutely right! During the Q&A session one parent commented that “What I’m hearing from you all is exactly what I brought my son here for; to see other well-spoken young men with well thought out goals.” Going to recruiting events and hearing those types of comments are one of the many things that make being an AFROTC cadet worthwhile. So, next time you hear about an upcoming recruiting event don’t hesitate to volunteer 1-2 hours of your time. HUAH!
Introduction of Aquatics PTs

On Tues 30 March and Wed 31 March, a new plan for PT was introduced, aquatic PT. Was it just going to be swimming laps or more like aqua-aerobics? Once there, everyone would find out.

Since this had to take place in the competition pool, times had to be rearranged due to the varsity swim team’s practice times. The PT times were on Tues morning and Wed afternoon. On Tues afternoon, one could hear the same questions being asked over and over again, “Did you go to PT this morning?” “How was it?” One response was “It was the most awesome, fun PT I’ve ever been to!” With this endorsement, many cadets were looking forward to the aquatic PT on Wed. Once there, cadets received a briefing, split up into swimming ability groups, received kickboards and claimed a lane. Then, everyone jumped in and began the warm-up, swimming 300-400m, or since the lanes were 50m long, 4-6 laps. Everyone made it through, only to get to the next exercise, swimming with kickboards. When it was explained it didn’t seem so bad, how hard can kicking while holding a kickboard in front of you be? Apparently very. As cadets were passing each other in the water, the same thing could be heard, “I feel like I’m not going anywhere.” But they were, just at really slow pace. The next exercise used leg floaties so that arm techniques could be emphasized. One of the exercises was called the fingertip drag. This is when you drag your thumb up the side of your body as you reach to pull back. Another was catch-up, where you had to slap your other hand before pulling it back. And then there was the one where your hand was in a fist and you used your forearms to pull you forward. None of them were really easy. But it all had a purpose, to help improve your swimming technique. And what’s PT without a little competition? At the very end everyone participated in a relay. You had to dive in and swim 100m and when you came back, your partner could dive in. A few cadets dove in for the first time, some belly-flopped, but they got out and tried again.

All of the cadets who participated had a great time and are looking forward to the next aquatic PT. The next scheduled aquatic PT will be on the week of 11 April 2010. Perhaps some of the land-dwellers will join us then.
Congratulations to all the AAS members who ran and were voted into staff positions. There are a lot of returning officers, but there are also a few new faces. All in all, AAS is excited about its new leadership under AAS C/Maj Randall Kanzelmeyer and his staff. He is already planning and looking forward to next semester.

Officers for 2010-2011, Cornell C. Houston Squadron

Squadron Commander, AAS C/Maj Randall
Squadron Deputy Commander, AAS C/Capt Adam
Squadron Chief of Protocol, AAS C/Capt Lucas
Operations Officer, AAS C/1st Lt Matthew
Training Officer, AAS C/1st Lt Kim
Support Officer, AAS C/1st Lt Zack
Public Affairs Officer, AAS C/1st Lt Drew
Information Management Officer, AAS C/1st Lt Somya
Detachment Cook-Out

It was sunny but breezy on the day of the cookout. The day in question was Thursday the fourth in the month of March. The smell of burgers and hotdogs galore could be smelled from a block away. As we walked back to our beloved detachment from Peter’s parking deck, we were tantalized by the delicious aroma wafting our way.

Eventually, our stomachs groaning in hunger, we came in sight of the cookout and we were rewarded with a sight glorious enough to make an angel cry, burgers and hotdogs piled in neat stacks awaiting our eating pleasure. As we got closer we could see that not only had our wonderful Mission Support Group provided us with a carnivores fantasy, they had also gone to the trouble of providing soda and a panoply of other delicacies not the least of which were the chips. The faces of the cadets when they saw all the food was similar to the face of kindergartener told to knock down a block tower taller than him.

Unlike other organization’s free events the cooking was superb and we weren’t restricted to a half of a hotdog per person with a Dixie cup of soda to wash it down. Sitting down, eating burgers and fellowshipping with my fellow cadets is one of many memories that I will always cherish from AFROTC Detachment 165. There are many different ways for LLAB to end but far and away the best of all is to end it with a cookout. Mission Support Group I thank you, the detachment thanks you, and America thanks you.

GMC and POC of the Month

Congratulations to our GMC and POC of the Month:

C/3C  C/2d Lt
1. Students have been looking forward to this for awhile.
5. Eating here with the mentor/mentee was fun.
7. At the end of every semester. All cadets strive for this.
10. Meeting required at the middle of every semester.
11. It’s like summer camp that I don’t want to go back to.
15. What do they do? Green.
18. Floaties and minisurf boards.
19. We have never won this event.

2. Provides information about Air Force educational opportunities to high school counselors and administrators.
3. They operate behind in the shadows. Blue.
4. If I was asked to attend this. A ”Maybe” counts as a ”Yes”.
9. The staff that controls it all.
12. It was suppose to be a joint event but we were alone.
14. Flight halt, _______!
16. We need them every time we cross the road.
17. A time to come together and EAT!
Feedback is a great way to get ideas on how to improve. What kind of articles would you like to see and what would you like to see more of? Would you like to become a columnist for The Afterburner or do you simply have suggestions? Send us an email with your suggestions and interests and maybe we’ll see your ideas or an article from you in the next issue!

Email for suggestions/comments.

Air P-P-Power!

Recruiting Events

12 April - Connect with Tech
12 April - Recruiting - Clark Atlanta
23 April - Recruiting - Georgia State

Up Coming Events

10 April - Gama Cup
16 April - GMC Lock-In
23 April - Dining In
27 April - Joint Awards Ceremony
29 April - Change of Command/Parade

From www.afblues.com