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Fall 2015 Command Slate

*WG/CC
C/ Col Gonsiewski

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C/ Lt Col Mercier

*WG/XO
C/ Capt Muraleetharan

*OG/CC
C/ Lt Col Curren

*OG/CD
C/ Maj Ramunda

*SQ1/CC
C/ Maj Daly
SQ1/CD
C/ Capt Policastro

*Alpha Flt/CC
C/ Capt Shumate

*Bravo Flt/CC
C/ Capt Vogel

*SQ2/CC
C/ Maj Sharpy
SQ2/CD
C/ Capt Delgado

*Charlie Flt/CC
C/ Capt Crain

*Delta Flt/CC
C/ Capt Reynolds

*SQ3/CC
C/ Maj Dickerson
SQ3/CD
C/ Capt White

*Echo Flt/CC
C/ Capt Bechtel

*Foxtrot Flt/CC
C/ Capt McLernon

*MSG/CC
C/ Lt Col Schmidt

*MSG/CD
C/ Maj Dwyer

*SQ4/CC
C/ Maj Preiss
SQ4/CD
C/ Capt Carella

*Golf Flt/CC
C/ Capt Melton

*Hotel Flt/CC
C/ Capt Winthrop

*SQ5/CC
C/ Maj Totten
SQ5/CD
C/ Capt Rozansky

*India Flt/CC
C/ Capt Trettel

*Juliet Flt/CC
C/ Capt Lanman

*SQ6/CC
C/ Maj Warrell
SQ6/CD
C/ Capt Scheaffer

*Kilo Flt/CC
C/ Capt Carroll

*Lima Flt/CC
C/ Capt Fraizer
The 11th of September, 2001 is a day that will not be easily forgotten. On that day, 2,977 people lost their lives, 3,051 children lost their parents, and our nation was shook to its very foundations. Det. 875 takes it upon themselves to commemorate the fallen on this day, not just with their hearts and minds, but with their bodies as well.

At 0800, 11 September 2015, the entire wing met at Lane Stadium. Here they proceeded to run the stairs of the East Stands, with each step climbed for the lives lost in the 9/11 attacks. It was a workout that put their bodies to the test. They would feel every one of those 2,977 steps for days following the exercise. The wing truly came together that day, every cadet pushing their wingmen onwards to honor and account for the lives lost.

After the workout, the wing was shown a video about one of the people who died at the World Trade Center. They sat in silence as the story of Welles Crowther was told. Although not military, Welles epitomized the Air Force core value “Service before Self”. He gave his life saving others when he himself had the chance to live. He was one of many people who exemplified true bravery and heroism that day and every cadet ran a step in his memory.

The wing walked away from the run feeling a mix of emotions. There was definitely some fatigue, sore legs, and lots of sweat, but the one thing they all felt was pride in what they had accomplished in the memory of those who were lost.
October 10 marked a very important day on the Wing’s first semester calendar: Warrior Day.

It was a day chock-full of learning and progression as leaders for the AS100 and AS200 cadets. POC also played a primary role in preparing for this day as well as evaluating the GMC in order to guide them to more efficient and successful leadership. The primary objectives that cadets were tasked with were an assortment of knowledge tests and leadership problems in fields that are essential knowledge for future Air Force Officers. Some stations worked in technical areas, while others involved the need for a creative leader to step up and conduct the flight through a formidable problem. Challenges that cadets had to face ranged from Self Aid Buddy Care, moving in formations, calling in 9-lines, and of course some classic GLPs.

The day was designed for GMC to step up and be these creative leaders necessary for each station, and it was a massive success from this aspect. Captain McGan spoke to the AS100s, stating how pleasantly surprised she was to see many of them step up and welcome these leadership roles. Colonel Torrens stated that what he saw was not necessarily surprising, but rather we performed at a high level as he expected. High standards are set for future Air Force Officers, and it is our jobs as cadets to uphold these standards. Great job to everyone who participated, and continue to aim high Wing.
C/ Adams

On Monday September 14th, a group of ten Detachment 875 Cadets attended the Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition in National Harbor, Maryland. At the conference, an array of knowledgeable Air Force Officers and civilian leaders spoke on the pertinent issues faced by the United States Air Force and the aerospace sector as a whole.

Included were panels and speakers on Congress and National Security, the State of Cyberwar, Air Force Energy, and the Quest for a New Airpower Strategy among other guest speakers. Cadet Sherburne, who attended the conference, explained some of the major takeaways from this great learning experience: “People next in line of the chain-of-command need to make sure they are giving their people the best tools, the best training, and the best support they deserve whenever they put themselves out there in harms way. Networking is also crucial to bring different sub-organizations together to share best practices and ideas. All leaders of the Air Force, even the Chief of Staff are still Airmen, and everyone gets treated with the same level of respect.”

This AFA Conference was a wonderful hands-on leadership and learning opportunity, as well as beneficial to hear from those who have been down the same track on which we as cadets plan to embark. It is evident that the speakers shared some valuable insight and information with those who attended, and that the conference as whole was a great learning environment to further the extent of knowledge concerning the future of air power.

C/ Ragan

On the 17th of September, a group of cadets loaded into cargo vans and made the six hour trek to Ohio in order to show why Det. 875 is the best alive, and the biggest PT studs at the Air Force Marathon.

Cadets made it to Ohio Thursday night giving them a full day to relax, explore, and prepare before the big races on Saturday. The trip was headed by C/MacGibbon who planned out the schedule of events. This included a trip to the National Museum of the USAF at Wright-Patterson AFB, as well a look into the Presidential Aircraft Gallery. Perhaps what was almost better than going into the same airplane that JFK flew in was the carbo-load at the Spaghetti Warehouse later that evening.

The next day started dark and early with the cadets getting to the race location by 0530. Some cadets pushed it out in a motivating 10k race, others challenged themselves with their first half or full marathon, and a few were already well seasoned in the sport of long distance running. Even Col. Torrens who ran the full, Capt. McGan and Maj. Ward who ran the half, were out running with other motivators. It was especially exciting to see C/Schmidt finishing 3rd overall for the full marathon race! Although the end of the race brought blisters, cramps, and even rain, the cadets of Det. 875 left satisfied knowing they could come together to celebrate the branch that will one day be home- the United States Air Force!
On the evening of 14 November, Detachment 875 got together for a fun filled night at the biennial combat Dining-In. Cadets braved cold temperatures and formed up for the warrior run to the Virginia Tech Airport. Despite the cold, cadets arrived with a lot of motivation with high spirits and many dressed to look tactical including shemaghs, LBVs, Kevlar, and face paint.

Once at the hangar, the detachment was given a very motivational and informative speech by a retired Army colonel that put into perspective the sincerity of the business that we will be a part of in the near future through his experience in the Army. After, an arm wrestling competition and mechanical bull provided a time for fierce competition and good camaraderie. While eating some delicious burritos, cadets Stone and Shumate did an outstanding job roasting the commissioning cadets. One of the biggest hits of the night was the lip syncing battle that had cadets representing their respective squadrons, and the cadre staff showing the detachment their hidden talents.

Overall many months of planning by C/Warrell and his staff paid off with a great night of fun. Both the cadre and cadets were able to come together whether it was from listening to inspirational stories, or laughing at one another from the many humorous activities going on. Thanks to everyone involved who made this possible!
Det. 875 proved themselves to truly be the best alive by receiving the #1 Large Detachment award in the Nation this semester! We came in top for production with commissioning 40 2LTs and 5 Distinguished Graduates. Thanks to our PFO’s and everyone’s hard work at PT, we also got first in PFA scores among senior military colleges. Academically, we came in with an average GPA of 3.197, another score to top other detachments. This is no easy task, and everyone in the wing should be proud of the accomplishments they have made individually and especially what we’ve accomplished collectively.

While the hard work of the cadets helped us get here, this wouldn’t be possible without the guidance and help from our cadre. None of these accomplishments could have been made without their continuous commitment and support. We have been extremely fortunate as cadets to have leaders to not just set the example, but give guidance in developing ourselves as future officers.

However, the work doesn’t stop here; we should take pride in our accomplishments while continuing to strive for excellence in all that we do. There’s always more work to do in Det. 875!
This semester, the Robert Femoyer Service Squadron has been hard at work to promote excellence throughout the wing. As a service squadron, this AFROTC organization focuses on professional development, Field Training preparation, and selfless service. Our members have been finding new ways to uphold our motto “Pursue Excellence”… Sound familiar?

One of our main focuses this semester has been on professional development. C/ Rosas has been in charge of planning and executing these events. Cadets come together to discuss articles, readings, or quotes in order to promote their understanding of leadership. We’ve also dedicated time to FTP. C/ Leake has been the FTP coordinator helping flight commanders map out where their cadets should be with Field Training knowledge. Another main focus has been with creating service projects for the whole Wing to participate in. In total, there have been seven service projects put on through RFSS to include help with the YMCA, fall festivals, and book fairs as well.

There have also been traditions that RFSS has been working hard to uphold. First, each year we dedicate a ceremony for a VT Alumni to the Aviation Wall of Fame. It’s the largest project we put on all year. RFSS also proudly took on the organization and dedication to the Veteran’s Day Vigil. It’s our tradition to put on this ceremony each year, with volunteers from the rest of the Wing, and each year we successfully guard The Rock in honor of our great veterans.

Overall, this semester has been keeping us busy with jobs to come, but there’s still more to do! Next semester we look forward to welcoming the next tap class of prospective cadets who want to learn what pursuing excellence really means. If you want to better yourself as a leader and a person, come see what RFSS is all about.
This semester Air Force Flyers focused on building relationships with our local flying community and building resources for our members. We reached out to the New River Valley Pilots Association and the Civil Air Patrol squadron based here in Blacksburg. Cadet Magill, a private pilot and a member of Flyers, coordinated a simulator night with Civil Air Patrol. He led instruction of 15 high school aged cadets in our Redbird TD-2 basic aviation training device. Our simulator has since moved to a new home in Lane hall where it will be easier to access when cadets are available. Any cadet within the wing may now contact one of the private pilots in Flyers to set up a time to receive instruction in the simulator. It is an excellent training device for cadets to use, especially before heading up in a real plane.

Over fall break, four cadets were given the opportunity to go flying in a small aircraft for the first time. They flew in the Piper PA-28 pictured. This was their first time seeing what the pilot is really doing and what it really takes to go flying. Although they were unable to come this semester, we hope to host CAP from Andrews Air Force Base in the future for more opportunities for first flights.

Under our mission to teach basic aeronautical knowledge, cadets attended the Cross Country Challenge, sponsored at the Virginia Tech Airport by the Air Safety Institute. This lecture discussed the various challenges associated with recognizing a building accident chain and working to mitigate risks in the aircraft. Secondly, in preparation for tap next semester, Cadet Kelly worked to develop our academic training so it mirrors the initial flight training completed by lieutenants on their way to pilot training.

Finally, in a new effort to reach out to new members of the Wing who hope to be pilots, Flyers hosted Simulator Week. We opened the simulator for three hours in the evening for four nights in a row. This gave anyone 12 hours to come and learn about flying at his or her convenience. Over the week, we instructed 20 cadets on the basics of flying, and discussed what it takes to be a pilot in the Air Force. A big thank you to Cadets Stone, Magill, and Dwyer for instructing.
This semester has been one of self-improvement, planning and professional development as a team. Weekly meetings allowed us to plan much of what we wanted to do with the semester. Workouts as a team in the morning and training on log PT were fantastic team building opportunities. Clean up after football games was expedited by many prospective candidates showing motivation and dedication to come out to Indoctrination spring semester in February and March.

The team is very excited to announce one of their own achieving some pretty amazing accomplishments. Sam Stearney, in Naval ROTC was selected to become an Explosive Ordinance Disposal Officer once he commissions after graduation. This competitive and highly sought after career choice is extremely difficult to be accepted for and even more difficult once training actually begins. In regards to training as a team, members, joined with a few other cadets, became CPR/AED and First Aid certified. One of the two highlights of the semester was being the carwash fundraiser held at Advanced Auto Parts. The second highlight being that we were able to organize and run a workout for the VT Baseball team, who were gracious enough to invite us to a military appreciation breakfast.

Members of AFSOPT have worked diligently this semester to develop the individuals on the team, knowing the positive impact it will have and did have on the group as a whole. We’re looking forward to more opportunities next semester including a strong looking prospective Indoctrination class.
This semester for PT, the wing experienced physical challenges all over the map. We upheld certain traditional PT sessions such as the 9/11 Memorial workout, the Halloween run, and, of course, dodgeball competitions. The wing also got to revisit some old workouts from InBalance Yoga and Crossfit 460 as well. While the typical AMRAP or mock PFA made their way into the mix, the PFO staff, lead by C/ Patoray, worked hard to keep finding new ways to challenge the wing. These included creative partner workouts as well as squadron runs and even rugby workouts. Cadets constantly pushed it out in PT, always leaving sweaty and motivated.
This semester for Leadership Laboratory, the wing developed their leadership skills in all sorts ways. Cadets faced everything from AFSOPT challenges, drill competitions, FTP, and, what would a semester of LLAB be without an Ultimate Frisbee tournament? Aside from engaging in all these activities, cadets also received briefs from guest speakers, such as retired Generals in the Air Force, or even fellow cadets, to help expose them to new knowledge about different career fields, learning opportunities, and the Air Force in general. LLAB has been a great way for the detachment to continue to build morale while enhancing leadership skills in order to help us become the best possible Air Force officers.
Det. 875 would like to congratulate C/ Frazier for being awarded a highly competitive internship with the Naval Criminal Investigation Service. This day has been long awaited; but after an arduous application process and a crucial interview in Quantico, C/ Frazier can look forward to working one on one with NCIS agents both in the office and out in the field.

C/ Frazier attributes her selection to her achievements both in ROTC and at Field Training where she graduated Superior Performer. “Doing well academically helps,” C/ Frazier states, “but they also look for people who really want to make a career out of the internship and not just a resume point.”

This opportunity will give C/ Frazier hands on experience in the Criminal Investigation field. Not only that, but put her above the competition to join the Air Force Office of Special Investigations one day.

C.O.S. and C.O.M

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Detachment 875 is proud to recognize these cadets who will be commissioning this December! Thanks to these cadets who have worked endlessly to best prepare yourselves for an extremely rewarding career as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. If you see these cadets, please give them a big congratulations!

Panupong Phongpitakvises

Savannah Bailey

Patrick Bowers

Chanel Franklin

Aaron Giddings
# Special Thanks...

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