On September 19th, eleven of our cadets set out to Washington D.C. to attend the annual Air Force Association conference. The cadets going were a mix of 200's, 300's, and one 400. I had the opportunity to travel with this group and TSgt Ferebee.

There were many different lectures, a speech by the Air Force Chief of Staff, General Goldfien, as well as a science expo. The sessions were hard to choose between; I attended an F-35 panel with General Carlisle, lectures with the 13th, 14th, and 15th Chiefs of Staff, and a panel on the future of the Air Force.

There are three points that General Goldfien brought up in his speech that I would like to share with the wing. First is that we take our values into conflict. Therefore, we must stay a moral fighting force. Second, the Air Force is a family business. Families are the best deal our nation gets. Last, and I quote, “history may
not repeat itself, but it sure rhymes a lot.” These are the points that most stuck with me from his speech. Looking to the past to inspire and guide future innovation was an overarching theme of General Goldfien’s talk. This advice can and should be taken throughout all aspects of life, not just the military.

The panels along with the exposition comprised the rest of the day for myself, the ten other cadets, and TSgt Ferebee. The advice gathered, knowledge learned, and people met more than made up for the DC traffic we hit by leaving at 1700.

Arnold Air Society Conference
C/ Fulgenzi

Arnold Air Society officially has a squadron here at Virginia Tech. On October 4th, 2016, the paperwork was finalized and approved. Now, the Thomas C. Richards Squadron will start becoming a more active unit in our detachment and at Virginia Tech. On October 7th, three members from Arnold Air, Cadet Morgan Frazier, Cadet Brandon Tull, and myself attended the area convention held at UVA. Our very own detachment commander was the guest speaker for the event. Colonel Torrens spoke about his career and the different opportunities the Air Force provides. Our brand new squadron even received a shout out.

Meeting cadets from detachments all around the east coast was a great experience. Being able to sit in a relaxed, but fun environment and learn from commanders from other detachments was a fantastic opportunity. We learned about many training programs by interacting with cadets from other universities.

The Thomas C. Richards squadron is official and attending conferences. Our wing is very excited to see where they will go in the future.
AFTX weekend Fall 2016 will be remembered for years to come. This weekend Det. 875 traveled out to Caldwell Fields, one of the few places left on the planet without cell service, to take part in a one-night, two-day exercise to prepare the GMC cadets for field training.

The cadets found themselves in “New Bristol,” an unfamiliar land filled with challenges to overcome.

This year’s exercise was planned and organized by Cadet Nicholas Carroll and his staff. Together they constructed the best scenario in recent memory by pitting the Groups of the Wing against each other. As AS200’s, we were largely kept in the dark on the specifics of the exercise. We were informed that all the leadership would be executed by the 2nd year cadets, meaning they would be evaluated as leaders during specific evolutions.

The exercise focused on intelligence, civilian relations, squad tactics, land navigation, and leadership strategy. Each station had to be located by land navigation. The challenges were engineered to be realistic and tough, with EC’s and AS400’s acting in the roles of instructors and the local population.

This year’s AFTX closely modeled JFTC, the second half of field training, more than any before. A unique aspect of the exercise was the chain of command comprised of AS200’s, which spanned from Element Leader to Group Commander, and rotated throughout the day. This new implementation better prepared our AS200’s for field training.

Headed by Cadet Riley Cooper, the intelligence station was taken to a whole new level. Cadets were given the opportunity to decrypt intel and use the information to aid them in their upcoming missions.

With the exercise in full swing, the groups competed against each other in friendly competition. Paintball battles and “Spooky Pooky” (New Bristol’s most revered deity) filled most of the day. GMC cadets gained valuable experience in dealing with stress, effectively planning missions, and executing those missions to accomplish Group-wide objectives. While POC cadets got a chance to mentor and evaluate the GMC cadets. Although AFTX wasn’t quite the same without the winter weather, no one in Det. 875 can doubt that it was tons of fun and a great leadership experience for everyone. We are all excited for what will be in store for us next year.
Many of the cadets in Det. 875 do truly wonderful things. This is just a small way of congratulating some of them. This month we are highlighting three cadets for their commitment to excellence this October. Of course, there are many more outstanding cadets doing equally outstanding things in our detachment, that’s what makes us the best alive!

We would like to highlight all the cadets that participated in Operation Jetpack for their squadrons. Their service to our community and detachment has not gone unnoticed and we thank you. Next we have two outstanding AS200’s, cadets Michael Han and Raine Caverly-Horn. Cadet Han brought it upon himself to organize concessions for this semester. Cadet Caverly-Horn has done a spectacular job with helping and stepping up for parking at football games. These are not simple tasks and we thank them for their service to our detachment. We cannot wait to see what you can achieve in the upcoming years!

Way to go Det. 875! Can’t wait to see what wonderful things we bring next month.