

AIR FORCE ROTC NEWS

(Received 28 February 2012)

“What’s Planned”

The 280th Flying Jayhawk Wing is off to another very successful start this semester. The cadets have been busy planning a semester full of hands-on training events. We recently held a survival and orienteering course very near Clinton Lake. Cadets learned wilderness survival skills at multiple stations, such as making shelters, building fires, and ground-to-air signaling. They also learned navigating skills as they moved from station to station. Our cadets will soon return to the Clinton Lake to participate in our spring semester field leadership exercise (FLX). The FLX is designed to give our cadet an opportunity to experience first-hand what Air Force operations are like in an austere environment. They will learn how to move and communicate in the battlefield, and how to deal with local nationals that they may encounter in a deployed environment. Our cadets also plan on holding a course in water survival, visiting the University of Kansas Adams campus for a go at the “Ropes” course, and participating in a Parade and dining-in towards the end of the semester. As you can see, there is never a dull moment here at the 280th.

“Info about EAs”

This year, we will submit 16 cadets for continuation in our advance program. The Enrollment Allocation (EA) process is what determines which cadets in the Air Force ROTC program will get a commission. The EA process is very competitive; last year only around 50% of cadets received an EA. A board at AFROTC headquarters will meet in March to determine which of our 16 will get an EA. The board looks at detachment commander’s ranking, GPA, physical fitness test results, and academic aptitude scores to make their determination. We wish our cadets the best of luck through this demanding process.

“Good News Stories”

I am happy to announce that we nominated three outstanding cadets for pilot duty and all three received a slot. The well-deserved individuals were cadets Nicholas Brunkhorst, Kevin Jackson, and Grant Worden. Cadet Seth Wilson was picked up for a summer internship to Morocco. Cadet Julian McCafferty was accepted to a very challenging program of study through the National Reconnaissance Office. Cadet Emily Thompson was nominated for a summertime position with the Lawrence-Livermore National Laboratories. Additionally, we had five AS200 cadets win in-college scholarships and four of our AS100 cadets received in-college scholarships.

“More Good News”

Det 280 had two new arrivals over the last two months. In Dec, SSgt George White and his wife, Amanda celebrated the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Noelle White. Their new little one weighed 6 lbs 12 oz and was 19.75 in long...and as SSgt White reminds us, “No, not a Christmas baby.” In Feb, Capt Benjamin Smith and his Amy celebrated the arrival of their son, Samuel Ryan Smith. To quote Capt Smith, “wt 7 lb 14 oz (though I believe he could fight in the 8 lb wt class in the spring); length, 21 inches with the wingspan of an impressive 24 inches. His 40 [yard dash] time is unofficial right now so I will wait for toddler camp before I post.” Help us in congratulating both of these couples.

Finally, continue to keep TSgt Kip Gomez in your thoughts during his deployment.

Very Respectfully,
Lt Col Samuel
“Aim High...Fly, Fight, Win!”