



U.S. AIR FORCE

410th Cadet Wing Forum

20 April 2009



Develop the best Air Force leaders and citizens of character, dedicated to serving the nation.

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Commander's Corner



Welcome! I am proud to report that the future is set! The men and women in Det 410 have set high standards and continue to exceed and challenge everyday! The cadets have comprised this newsletter to let you know what has been happening over the past semester as well as some future events. The purpose of this letter is to inform you each semester what happened in the previous semester as well as some upcoming events. If you know of anyone who would be interested in the newsletter, have input to the newsletter please don't hesitate to contact us! Enjoy the articles and see what is in store for our Air Force. GO TOMMIES!

Dining-Out Spring 2009

Since the beginning of organized society, there has been a military establishment. Today, our sophisticated multi-service military observes many customs, traditions, and procedures traceable to the earliest of warriors. The dining-out as a military tradition is said to have its roots in the shadow of antiquity. Today, the dining-out is the capstone events of our academic year. I hope you can join us on 2 May 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel in Minneapolis to celebrate a year of hard work in the 410th Cadet Wing. There is sure to be esprit-de-corps, camaraderie, or in our modern day language.... entertainment! See you at the grog! If you have any questions or have not received an invitation and would like to attend, contact Cadet Andrew Knoff at arknoff@stthomas.edu.

Class Updates

IMT First semester, we were all absorbed with wearing our uniforms correctly, and dodging upperclassmen on Mondays. Learning how to salute correctly was the hardest task in the world, and it didn't help on Mondays when everyone was in uniform and someone is walking toward you... and you don't know who! Junior? Senior? Sophomore? (you have to watch out for sophomores, because they like to play pranks). Second semester things got better... we all had several Saturday GMC Workshops under our belts and now we were prepared to take on pledging for whichever ROTC extra curricular

activity struck our fancy. Now, between all of those Saturdays scrambling for standardization and early, early mornings of formation and marching, all I can say is, "look out FTP... here we come!"

FTP The AS200 class has been learning a great amount of valuable knowledge for Field Training from their trainers during Field Training Preparation at LLAB. Our class had Joint Training Day (JTD) on Saturday, 18 April 09, where we competed with cadets from the University of Minnesota.

Our class has continued the tradition of dominating the U of M's FTP class. In addition, our class has a Field Training environment event at Fort McCoy on 24 April-26 April.

ICL After coming back from their summer field training in Mississippi and Alabama, ICL cadets have been honing their leadership skills in the course "Leadership and Management". Lt Col Taylor is the instructor, but the cadets are taking turns teaching the class through briefings and discussions to further develop their skills. These classes span anything from the current world issues faced by the Air Force to joint ethics which help guide military members on the legal path. They also engage in case studies regularly to discuss and problem solve several situations that may come up in active duty.

SCL The AS400s have been extremely busy and active throughout the Cadet Wing this year. Two cadets from our class, Cadet ... and Cadet ... , have had the opportunity to lead the Cadet Wing. Under their leadership, the rest of us have been working hard; making sure the Cadet Wing runs smoothly both semesters. Not only have the SCLs been worrying about the operations of the Cadet Wing, some of us have been preparing for Commissioning while others have been competing for pilot slots. Our focus this semester has been on learning as much about active duty as possible.

Preparation for Field Training

Cadets in the 410th Cadet Wing at the University of Saint Thomas (UST) prepare for Field Training in an AFROTC program known as FTP, or Field Training Preparation. FTP is a training curriculum which usually lasts one academic year. Any cadet who is attending Field Training the following summer participates in FTP. The FTP curriculum is directed and taught by upperclassmen who performed exceptionally well at past Field Trainings. Sometimes these upperclassmen have even attended an additional Field Training as Cadet Training Assistants.

In the fall semester, the curriculum is learning-based and has an academic tone or environment. This is when FTP cadets begin to learn about Field Training, using the Field Training Manual and Airman's Manual in preparation for the spring semester. In the spring semester, the curriculum becomes more intense and has a



training tone or environment. During this time cadets master key components of Field Training knowledge such as drill, physical fitness, inspections, standard operating procedures, and uniform wear.

The event that FTP cadets prepare for over the course of this one academic year, Field Training, is a 28-day long encampment. Cadets are assigned to attend one of six Field Training Units held over the course of the summer. Each unit will train and graduate, approximately 400 cadets. Field Training is designed to evaluate military leadership and discipline, determine cadets' potential for entry into the professional officer corps, and stratify cadets among their peers. Tools for assessment at training include physical fitness tests, confidence courses, group leadership problems, leadership competency evaluations, and tests of individual situational leadership. Attrition rates at Field Training Units have ranged from 2-10% over the past two summers.

In January 2008, the Air Force unveiled sweeping changes to the AFROTC Field Training program. Both directors of the FTP curriculum this academic year attended the 'old' Field Training as trainees in 2007 and attended the 'new' Field Training as trainers in 2008. This added experience has been invaluable to this year's FTP cadets at UST.

The old Field Training involved living 28 days in-garrison (in dorms) with physical training, classroom lessons, outdoor lessons on tactics, and a three day stint in the field. The new and improved Field Training involves cadets living in-garrison for the first 12 days with physical training and classroom lessons. The following 14 days, cadets live in the field - first learning, and then applying Air Expeditionary Force

concepts in a mock forward operating base with intense physical training. This new experience gives cadets a feeling of responsibility, not just for the sake of one's self, but for the sake of the 400+ other cadets also training and serving in the experience. The new Field Training concludes in-garrison, with a debrief that explains the "why" behind Field Training. This new Field Training better prepares your American Airmen to fly, fight, and win in the defense of this nation.

A Weekend at Notre Dame

On 15 January 2009, nine ROTC cadets and Capt Priestley piled into a 15-passenger van headed for South Bend Indiana. They had one goal in mind: bringing home the first place trophy of the largest ROTC sporting event in the country. This would be the first year that Detachment 410 competed in the Annual Flyin' Irish Invitational Basketball Tournament at the University of Notre Dame. The cadets knew the challenge that lay ahead of them. Now in its 23rd year, the tournament hosted 56 teams from across the country all competing for the chance to play for first place in the storied Joyce Center. Teams like Texas A&M, Penn State, and Purdue that combined the best players from Air Force, Army, and Navy ROTC. Nobody at this tournament was worried about St. Thomas AFROTC. Where are they from anyway, the Caribbean?



The van arrived in South Bend at approximately 0230 ET on Friday morning. Courageous driving by a tired Capt Priestley through blizzard conditions in a completely iced-up van allowed the all-star team to safely settle in to their comfy beds at the budget-conscious Howard Johnson Motel. Later that day, the team suited up for its first game against a very talented Colorado State team. Having never practiced together before the game, the St. Thomas players initially tried to rely on their individual skills. Down by 17 points at halftime, Det 410 began playing tough defense and moving the ball on offense. After storming back to take the lead late in the game, St. Thomas lost to Colorado State on a controversial basket made after time expired. The cadets used this loss as motivation, and won their next three games by over 25 points each. Other teams began to take notice of this St. Thomas team, which was clearly the best shooting and quickest team at the tournament. Going into the Sunday morning single elimination bracket of 16 teams, the Det 410 players felt confident about their chances of making

it to the championship. Unfortunately, they drew their kryptonite in the first game – a Notre Dame team with a couple of 6'-6", 240 lb cadets playing tough under the basket. The biggest player on St. Thomas was about 6'-4" 190 lbs. Despite a flurry of 3-pointers and lock-down defense, Det 410 could not handle the powerful Notre Dame rebounding and post presence. Although St. Thomas lost that game, the players have nothing to be ashamed of, as they left everything on the court – blood, sweat, and every ounce of energy. Traveling back home later that day, the players slept peacefully in the van in pain and extreme soreness – proud of the way they had represented Detachment 410 and the University of St. Thomas.



MOVING UP, MOVING ON...

2009 Commissionees

The commissioning ceremony will be held on 23 May 2009 at 1000 in the OEC Auditorium.

Goodfellow
Whiting Field
Wright-Patterson
Mountain Home
Columbus
Malmstrom
Columbus
Holloman
Thule, Greenland
Wright-Patterson
Hanscom
Arnold
McEntire
Goodfellow
Goodfellow
Aviano, Italy
Goodfellow
Pensacola
Tyndall
Los Angeles

FTU Assignments

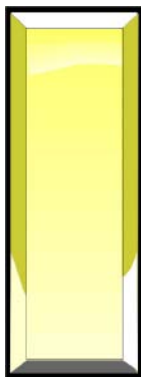
Field Training Units (FTUs) have been assigned to this year's FTP cadets (and trainer) as follows:

CTA, Maxwell 3
Maxwell 1
Maxwell 6
Maxwell 2
Maxwell 6
Maxwell 6
Maxwell 6
Maxwell 2
Maxwell 5
Maxwell 6
Maxwell 1
Maxwell 4
Maxwell 4
Maxwell 6
Maxwell 6
Maxwell 3
Maxwell 6
Maxwell 2
Maxwell 6
Maxwell 6
Maxwell 5

PDTs

The following cadets have been selected for Professional Development Training (PDT) assignments this Summer:

Morocco
USAF Academy
Fort Riley
Czech
Hanscom
Brazil
Ellsworth
McConnell
Patrick
Kirtland
USAF Academy
McConnell
Mountain Home
USAF Academy
Patrick



Maxwell 1, 5/23-6/20; Maxwell 2, 6/06-7/04; Maxwell 3, 6/13-7/18; Maxwell 4, 7/04-8/01; Maxwell 5, 7/16-8/15; Maxwell 6, 8/01-8/29

Send mail to our cadets! Cadets can receive mail at the following address:

Cadet (Last Name, First Name MI)
MAXWELL ___ (1, 2, etc.)
501 Lemay Place N.
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112



UST Black Knights Bring Home the Hardware

The Southern California Invitational Drill Meet (Anaheim, CA) was not made for West Point and BYU alone. On the 7th day of the 3rd month of the 9th year of the 21st century, it was the University of St. Thomas who looked to mix it up a bit. After weeks of 0440L wakeups for training and countless injuries (not to mention a blood splattering head wound that required stitches), the Black Knights Precision Rifle Drill Team showed up and performed. The work paid off, earning them a trophy for 3rd place in the drill phase of competition and a tie for 3rd overall with BYU.

The Drill team was honored by University of St. Thomas President, Father Dennis Dease and Detachment 410 Commander, Lt Col Sylvia C. Taylor in a special ceremony April 6th.



Alumni Updates and Bios

Lt Col Brian Geronime

I am currently the 13th Air Force Chief of Current Operations at Hickam AFB, HI but will move in April to Andrews AFB, MD to fly C-40s for the 89th Airlift Wing.

Lt Col David Hedger

Graduated St Thomas in 1992, BA in Physics. UPT at Reese AFB (Lubbock TX) in 1993-94. KC-135 at Malmstrom AFB, MT and MacDill AFB, FL (1994-00). RAF exchange Officer -- VC-10 aircraft commander, RAF Brize Norton UK ('00-'04). 16 AF staff officer, Ramstein Germany (2004-2007). Director of SUPT students & T-6 Instructor Pilot, Laughlin AFB, TX (2008-present).

Capt Matthew T. Kealy

After graduation, I was stationed at Hurlburt Field for 3 yrs; working in the 505th Communications Squadron (CS) and serving as the executive officer of the 505th

Training Group. I transferred to Eglin where I was a flight commander in the 728th Air Control Squadron. I deployed with the 728th to Iraq and was a detachment commander at the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron's northern site. So far that deployment has been the best experience of my Air Force career. I'm currently back at Det 410, where it all started, working as an instructor.

Capt Steve Meissner

I was a '99 grad, then casual at Grand Forks for 6 months, UPT at Sheppard, B-1 FTU at Dyess, in the 37th Bomb Squadron for 2.5 years at Ellsworth, an ALO (Air Liaison Officer---an officer JTAC or FAC) at Wiesbaden Army Airfield in Germany for 2 years, and now back at Ellsworth in the 34th Bomb Squadron for the last 2 years. I just got back from my fourth deployment: 3 in the B-1 flying missions over

Afghanistan (2 out of Diego Garcia and the last one from Al Udeid AB, Qatar) and 1 deployment to Tal Afar and Ar Ramadi, Iraq with the Army as an ALO.

2d Lt Erin Bourget

I am very happily stationed in Misawa Japan, I have attended ASBC, I graduated from the Basic Logistics Course and I am currently working in the IDRC (Installation Deployment Readiness Center) where we recently deployed 300+ personnel with the 13 Fighter Squadron of the 35 Fighter Wing to an undisclosed location.

Share your story!

Contact us at:

afrotc410@stthomas.edu

Out of the Basement and into the Sunshine

After a number of decades in the basement of Foley Theater, the ROTC detachment has moved to adapt to the needs of the University of St. Thomas. On 30 March 2009, the detachment moved from the north campus to the 3rd and 4th floors of Loras Hall, on South campus. Loras Hall, which is a red brick building near the science and engineering facilities, was constructed in 1894 and originally was used as a residence for St. Paul Seminary students. Loras Hall is an old building with character and potential. The original wood floors have been covered with carpet, the plaster walls have been painted many times, and a drop down ceiling has been added to conceal the plumbing and ductwork. The cadre and cadets are especially enjoying the new location because being above ground allows for amenities such as fresh air and sunshine! Despite the being on the less centrally located south campus, the building holds a warm charm and will serve as a good temporary home for AFROTC.

The cadets and cadre seized the move as an opportunity for learning. Throughout their ROTC careers, cadets are taught that "Flexibility is the key to airpower." In other words, being flexible and adaptive will make you a better Air Force officer because nothing will ever happen exactly as planned. The ECL (5th year senior) cadets coordinated the new Loras Hall layouts. Many cadets helped to pack, unpack and organize the new spaces. The opportunity for learning through change is not over,

however, as in a few years the detachment will be moved once again to a more permanent facility. By leading through the next few years of change, cadets will truly learn that flexibility is an important aspect of leadership. We have all been embracing changes as they come and taking every opportunity to learn. The positive attitude toward change that is embodied in the cadets at St. Thomas is a part of what makes the cadets that graduate from the program excellent Air Force leaders.



FAQs (for parents)

What are cadets required to do each week?

- Attend 2 Physical Training sessions each week (0630 – 0730)
- Wear the uniform between 0730 and 1630 on Mondays
- Attend Lead Lab (various training activities and briefings) on Monday nights (1730 – 1930)
- Respond to and complete various tasks given by cadre and cadet leaders

What do all of these acronyms stand for?

LLAB: Leadership Laboratory

FTP: Field Training Preparation

PFA: Physical Fitness Test

Det: Detachment

IMT: Initial Military Training

ICL: Intermediate Cadet Leader

SCL: Senior Cadet Leader

ECL: Extended Cadet Leadership

Have something you'd like to contribute? Drop us a note!

E-mail us at:
afrotc410@stthomas.edu

The "410th Cadet Wing Forum" is the unofficial newsletter published in the interests of the alumni, parents, and cadets of Air Force ROTC Detachment 410, University of Saint Thomas. Contents of the "410th Cadet Wing Forum" are not necessarily the official view, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Air Force ROTC, or University of Saint Thomas.