

AFROTC Detachment 785 Newsletter



February

Commander's Corner

A message from your Det 785 Commander, Lt Col Thompson

"Det 785, we're halfway there! When we started the semester I told you to **"start strong"** with the three pillars of **leadership, academics, and physical fitness**. Now, as we reach the midpoint, I want to encourage you to **"stay strong"** and continue to strengthen those pillars. This Commander's Corner focuses on developing leaders of character. Well-rounded leaders read about leadership in order to study different leadership traits and styles. One author that I enjoy is John Maxwell. A quote that keeps me grounded on my job to develop leaders of character states that *"There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders, and continually develops them."* I want to focus on that the last part of the quote. Leadership development is a continually improvement process. Every touch point that **Det 785 Cadre** have with cadets is an opportunity to **constantly develop** you into **leaders of character**. It could be an office visit with Cadre, performing at Leadership Lab, participating in your AERO classes, correcting mistakes at FTP, pushing yourself at PT and FMF, participating in an Honor Guard event at the FedEx Forum, or taking on assigned tasks within the Det. All of these interactions are opportunities for Cadre to develop you as a leader. Remember, **Cadre will allow you to fail**, but we **will not allow you to be a failure**. Leaders read about leadership in order to continually sharpen their leadership skills. I will leave you with another great John Maxwell quote. He says, "The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails." My Det 785 challenge: learn to **"adjust your sails"** as you develop into leaders of character for the Air and Space Force. Det 785! **ONE MORE MILE!"**



-Lt Col Harley P. Thompson, Detachment 785 Commander



Big Flag Pull

On Wednesday, February 9th, we partnered up with the Army, Navy, and Marine ROTC programs to present the colors at the Memphis Men's Basketball game. The theme for the game was "Military and First Responders." We are extremely happy with the way it turned out, and it's always a pleasure to work with the other branches for events like these. Thank you to all those that have served, are serving, or will serve.

Cadet of the Month



The Cadet of the Month is no other than **C/Colonel Mark Meyeraan**. C/Col Meyeraan is an AS300 at the University of Memphis studying marketing management. Right now, he is our Cadet Wing Commander. He ensures that the day to day, as well as the long term operations, are running smoothly. C/Col Meyeraan wants to be a 19ZXA, a **Special Tactics Officer**. His long-term goals include staying in the Air Force as long as he can and making as big of an impact he can make. In his free time, he enjoys working out and working on his 1959 Chevy BelAir.



C/Col Meyeraan's Favorite Quote:

"The **harder the conflict**, the **more glorious the triumph**. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. I love the man that can **smile in trouble**, that can **gather strength from distress and grow**"

-Thomas Paine



Meet Your New Flight Commanders

Alpha

C/Maj Dodson

Chattanooga, Tennessee **Hometown**



Acquisitions or
Space Ops

Desired Job

Weightlifting, reading, and
listening to jazz

Hobbies

Favorite Quote:

"A foolish man
shares his problems,
a wise man shares
his memes"



Bravo

C/Maj Lock

Chicago, Illinois



RPA

Rebuilding cars, playing
video games, and playing
golf

Favorite Quote:

"Success is how high
you bounce when
you hit the bottom"



"Leadership is action, not
position" - Donald H.
McGannon

Honor Guard

Presenting the colors of the nation is an honor. C/4C Reed is the Honor Guard Officer for Det 785, and he has made it a **priority** for the Honor Guard to not only present the colors well, but also know the **meaning behind the flag** we are presenting. While the Honor Guard has only been able to present the colors a few times this month, C/4C Reed has been busy teaching new members about everything they need to know before being in a successful Honor Guard so we can eventually do more events. C/4C Reed is doing a great job!

Pictured Below:

Cadets Heinz, Reed, Pouncer, Meersman, Castaneda, Vanhooose



Pictured Above:

C/4C Reed, C/4C Maxim, C/3C Meija, C/4C Diggs

Pictured Below:

C/3C Meija and C/3C Castaneda



Pictured Below:

Cadets Maxim, Ratliff, Vanhooose, Meersman, Reed, Kring



SMS

Volunteering is an important part of our lives here at Det 785. One of the Air Force's Core Values is "**Service Before Self.**" C/3C Castaneda has taken the responsibility of organizing events around the city of Memphis for our cadets to volunteer. So far, C/4C Meersman and C/4C Reed are tied with the most amount of service hours. Keep it up! From providing warm meals and clothes for those in need to planting trees, Det 785 does it all! Good work C/3C Castaneda!

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give"

100's Trivia

- 1) Which cadet owns 2 wiener dogs?
- 2) Who turned 18 in front of the White House?
- 3) Who lives on a chicken farm and has worked at a chicken factory?
- 4) Who has 3 siblings that have the same initials?
- 5) Which cadet was born on Friday the 13th?
- 6) Which cadet has lived in 8 different locations?

We appreciate you taking the time to read our February Newsletter. If you would like to hear more from us, make sure to follow our social media pages.



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