



# HURRICANE ACES



Capt Kemp speaks to the Wing after Friday at Crandon Park - the Leadership Laboratory location for the Project X week

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## PROJECT X

### C/CLODE

This past month contained a week-long event called "Project X", which was a week devoted to evaluating the Field Training Preparation (FTP) cadets - the cadets who are training to go to Field Training at Maxwell AFB this summer. The purpose of this week was to evaluate the cadets and see how they perform under various tasks such as drill, leading Group Leadership Problems (GLPs), and other various high stress tasks. Each day of Project X different FTP cadets would be evaluated so that by the end of the week, they - as well as POC and Cadre - would know their strengths and weaknesses so that they know where they need to improve before heading to Field Training. The following accounts describe what each day had in store for the cadet being evaluated.



Cadets head to the shore to complete a GLP

## **TUESDAY OF PROJECT X**

### **C/MURPHY**

My FTP evaluation occurred on a Tuesday morning. I had no idea what I would be getting myself into, all I knew is that it would be located at the IM fields and everything would be explained to me and the other team leaders just moments before time began. The goal for the day was to carry a ruck pack, guide-on, water jug, and a battle buddy around the IM field for the remainder of PT or 3 miles, whichever came first. But there was a catch, we'd face small team events along the way. Overall, I had a ton of fun leading the group, and was fortunate enough to be paired with a wonderful team consisting of C/White, C/Stevenson, C/Ashcroft, and C/Medina, who gave valuable feedback during the event to further enhance our effectiveness together. I feel that the last few semesters prepared me well for the training exercise, and although I wasn't perfect, I followed the same principles that we were taught at every GLP since day one (assign, roles to each member in the flight, set goals, etc.). I wish the best for all future FTP cadets. You'll all do great, just stick with it and you'll be here before you know it!

## **THURSDAY OF PROJECT X**

### **C/GINORY**

Project X evaluation week has been one of the most fun as well as most challenging weeks for cadets who are competing for Field Training. One of the things that worried FTP cadets was that there were no OPORDS to read to know what was going to happen; every day was completely different, a new surprise, and we had to be prepared to lead other cadets on whatever task was given on the day we were chosen. I was chosen to be evaluated on Thursday. I did not know what to expect; I thought they were going to make me lead a set of missions just like on Tuesday, however, the task I was given was completely different and caught me off guard. My task was to march a flight and give them a set of commands that was written on a small sheet of paper. It sounds simple, but there were three catches: I had a very limited amount of time, every time I looked at the paper I lost points, and the space was barely twice the size of the flight. Although I feel comfortable with marching a flight, I felt uncomfortable because I've never marched them in such a small space and had to prevent them from exiting the cones. Despite destroying the time limit, I was able to complete the list thanks to my wingmen in my flight. I enjoy activities that challenge me by focusing on my weaknesses and I look forward to trying this again.

## **FRIDAY OF PROJECT X C/ASHCROFT**

As an FTP cadet, I was evaluated during the “Project X” week to have my leadership skills put to the test on Friday at Crandon Park. The day before the evaluation, the other leaders and I were given basic information about the schedule and mission, but nothing seemed to prepare me for the day to come. I arrived to the park running through my mind the basic leadership skills that AFROTC has drilled into my brain since day one - “Assign a time hack, deputy, stando, safety, etc... Assert yourself as the leader, use your wingmen, delegate duties, keep morale up, motivate...”. Those words repeated themselves in my head like a broken record, but I felt prepared, which is all that really matters. Throughout the course of the day, I led my group through 3 GLP’s- the javelin throw, the dig, and the sandbag carry. Although some tasks seemed arduous and confusing at first, my group and I were able to successfully complete all 3 GLP’s.

Once the evaluation was over, I was finally able to get some feedback, and I broke down each GLP in my head, highlighting the positives and negatives, and a few things were brought to light about what to work on for my next evaluation. The first thing is moving with a sense of urgency, which is important because 1. If less time is spent doing one thing, more time can be spent on another, and 2. Urgency makes every task seem important, so the people completing that task are more apt to accomplish the task thoroughly and with their best effort. The second thing is using a command voice. Even though my group members were all great followers and refrained from trying to overthrow my role, I noticed that I could have been more effective by asserting myself as a leader from the get-go. For field training, I will be leading cadets who don’t know me, don’t care about my success, and probably would love to undermine my role, therefore employing a command voice will be crucial to my success as a leader. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience at Crandon Park, and I look forward to continuing my growth as a leader in AFROTC.



AS200 cadets ready to be evaluated at Crandon Park



C/Ashcroft leading her flight for the day

## FRIDAY OF PROJECT X C/HWANG

Filled with mystery, sweat and good vibes, Crandon Park was the site for the last day of field training evaluations for cadets. With selection time nearing, every cadet was on their game to perform and show that they are capable of being a leader. Although it was a time of stress for many FTP candidates, it didn't get in the way of the great time we had with one another. Assigned to different groups unknowingly, candidates were given the task of running 1 mile to continue on with their assigned mission. From there, they were given the option of whether to run two extra laps to "receive" their team or to find them throughout the park. As the day continued on, cadets were challenged with various GLP's throughout the park with some being physically bearing and others being mentally draining. Personally, the key to success for the GLP's is to have great team spirit. Throughout the day, I learned that first hand as my team inspired me to become a better leader. Nearing the end of my turn, it came to the point of where evaluations were not even on my mind anymore. Instead, my focus shifted on finding new methods of inspiration for each individual in my group. Overall, the day taught me that adaptability is a key leadership trait not only in the Air Force but in life in general. It was very eye opening to see and hopefully it can inspire others to better themselves not only as leaders but as followers as well.



**Top Left:** C/White leads his flight for a puzzle GLP  
**Botton Left:** Cadets perform pushups on the beach

**Top Right:** C/Medina throws a javelin into the hoops  
**Botton Right:** Cadets working hard to complete a GLP

# THE ROAD FROM ENLISTMENT TO ROTC

## C/PATRICK

I was an enlisted Security Forces member for 3.5 years based out of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, NC. During my time on the enlisted side, I was deployed to Ahmad al Jaber Air Base in Kuwait to the 332d Security Forces Expeditionary Squadron for Operation Inherent Resolve. During my time overseas, I served as a Vehicle Search Area (VSA) Controller where I was in charge of five posts which consisted of 16-18 personnel. Our operations included scanning vehicles for prohibited materials and explosives before entering the base and insuring all personnel that entered the base were thoroughly searched before entering the secured area. While deployed, I also learned how to operate MRAPS while performing outer perimeter patrols and Security Escort Missions (SET). I spent my free time working out and running the unit Airman's Council to ensure the voices of enlisted personnel were heard. I mainly learned how to be a follower more than anything on the enlisted time. There were many times I didn't agree with some things but I knew my superiors would not lead us into darkness without clear explanations. I believe being in the military before I joined ROTC will help me by allowing me to have that enlisted perspective under my belt as well as an officer's perspective. I believe it is important to be able to relate to your airman so you can better understand their frustrations to be able to wholeheartedly take care of them.



C/Patrick during her time at Ahmad al-Jaber AB, Kuwait

## C/RODRIGUEZ, C.

My experience began with me packing my bags from Charlotte, NC and flying to Lackland AFB to start BMT. It was rough but it was expected. I entered BMT in May of 2010 with an enlistment of 6 years. After 8 weeks of training, I moved on to my first AFSC tech school at Hurlburt Field AFB, FL (TACP). There I endured six months of intense grueling special operations/tactics training until I was medically injured 3 weeks before graduation. I was medically reclassified to another AFSC, F-15 Aircraft Aviation Maintenance (Crew Chief).



I was set to another tech school in Sheppard AFB, TX. There I was trained for 5 months on basic aircraft aviation maintenance. After graduation, I was sent to a one-month follow on training to work on active aircraft at Seymour Johnson AFB, NC. After that graduation, I received my orders to my first duty station to Kadena AFB, Japan. I did a long tour of two years and once became part of a classified mission to safeguard the United States west coast air space from Russia. After my 2 year long tour, I was given orders to Eglin AFB, FL. I was stationed in Eglin AFB for 4 years. After my enlistment was coming to a close I extended for 1 year and transferred to Homestead ARB, FL. Currently in my 8 year Air Force career, I have been promoted 3 times to my current rank of SSgt, held several important jobs within my squadron, achieved 2 degrees (CCAF and Bachelors), traveled the globe, and met some unforgettable Airman, people, and life long friends. What I learned from my active duty career is the mission of the Air Force will not get done without its people or Airman. Take care of your Airman and everything else will follow.

This will help me be a leader in the officer ranks of the Air Force. I care for the well being of others. I'm very devoted and compassionate individual and that will help me be a good future leader. It's one of the main reasons why I joined the Air Force and why I'm now pursuing a commission through AFROTC. I want to be a transformational leader, a leader that offers followers a vision and inspires troops to complete their mission. A leader that inspires to exceed set goals, promote positive and meaningful changes, and transforms others. I want to lead positively by my actions, become a role model for others, and motivate others to be the same way. This is what overall motivates me to be in AFROTC and my trials and tribulations to get here from the enlisted ranks. I have come very far to put myself in the position to achieve my goal to commission in the United States Air Force. Another thing that motivated me to the path of ROTC is my military family history. My father is a retired Army Major, Jumpmaster Ranger and both of my grandfathers also served in the military. I want continue their legacy in the officer ranks of the United States Air Force.

I'm currently in the Air Force Reserves at Homestead ARB and balance ROTC the best I can with effective time management. When you join the military, especially the officer ranks, you need to have effective time management because you will be responsible for a lot in a short amount of time and need to handle it accordingly to your work and personal life.



C/Rodriguez receives his graduation medal from Airman Leadership School at Eglin AFB, FL



C/Rodriguez directs an F-15 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, AK

## C/GONZALEZ, A.

In the short 4 years that I have been in the military, I have been to deployments and temporary duties to places such as Afghanistan, Greece, and more. Traveling to different places around the world, has made me culturally competent and knowledgeable of different ways of life. I have learned more than I could have ever imagine in the armed forces. Not only have I acquired the technical skills I use to perform my job, but also the life lessons and values that were instilled in me by the Air Force. Some things can be taught in a classroom, but some can only be taught through experience. I have learned how to be a motivated airman and a dedicated wingman through the challenges I faced as an enlisted member. Overcoming hardships and learning from all the mistakes I made as an airman created the person I am today.

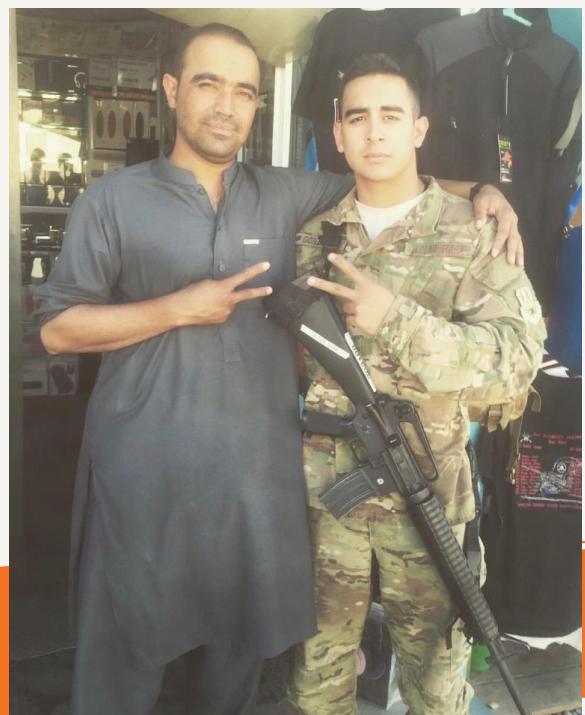
I believe my enlisted experience can help me in ROTC because I have already learned from previous supervisors I've had, the embodiment of what a true leader should be. Being a leader does not mean having rank over another person, but having their trust, influence, and most importantly, their respect. Being on the enlisted side, I know what I would expect from an officer in my unit, so I feel like if I were to commission, I would be more prepared to handle the duties and responsibilities of a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

Balancing the Air Force Reserves, and ROTC is challenging, to say the least. But one of the most important concepts I've learned from my time in the military is time management. Managing time is vital and I believe it is the foundation to success. Separating the two entities and giving both of them equal but my utmost attention, is what enables me to be effective. Another key to balancing the Reserves and ROTC is communication. I have made a commitment to both programs in which I give my time and effort to. If I do not effectively communicate with my supervisors, and coordinate with them where and what my priorities are, whether in the Reserves or in ROTC, it can be detrimental to my success.



**Left:** C/Gonzalez sits in an F-16 during a TDY in Greece

**Right:** C/Gonzalez during his time in Afghanistan



# BEING FINANCIALLY SMART

C/BHATTACHARYA

In order to be financially smart, there are five things a person must be able to do. These five things are: being able to create a budget, understanding and getting insurance, setting up an emergency fund, minimizing debt, and learning about investing.

In order to budget properly, it is important to manage your money properly and efficiently. When receiving your paycheck, always try to set aside at least 15% of your pay in order to pay for short and long term expenses, as well as anything that may come up unexpectedly. It will also be particularly prudent to find what type of insurance is right for you. In order to make the most informed decision on which insurance to get, it would be important to meet with an agent of an insurance provider who can cater to your specific needs and outline which insurance plan(s) would be best for you, and you should additionally meet with an independent financial consultant who can give you an objective second opinion. Next, the usefulness of setting aside money for an emergency reserve is self explanatory: it is in the case of an emergency. This is extremely important if you find yourself in such a position, because this could save you from putting yourself needlessly in debt. While debt may be useful in certain situations, minimizing the amount of debt you have is always a safe bet. To understand what kind of debt can be beneficial, and what will be detrimental, to your financial health, it is again important to talk with a financial consultant. Lastly, understanding the world of potential investments can greatly enhance your finances, but before you start investing, read about the world of investment and make sure you truly understand it.

Lastly, the most important thing to remember throughout this entire process is to sit down with somebody you know and trust throughout everything you do. Now although this does not cover everything you will need to know to be financially smart, it certainly covers some of the main building blocks of managing your finances.



A retired Airman briefs the Wing about how to be financially smart

# LIME CUP

## C/MILLER

Every year Air Force ROTC detachments from all over Florida, and one from Georgia, come together to compete in a series of sporting events called Lime Cup. This year it consists of five sports: Basketball, Soccer, Flag Football, Volleyball, and Kickball. As the captain, I was tasked with putting together a roster of 16 members—14 members and 2 alternates—from our detachment. During the semester, there are PT workouts that are set aside for Lime Cup tryouts. The goal was to focus more on the sports that needed more skill rather than athleticism. Compiling knowledge from last year and seeing new cadets workout, I was able to form a team that would give us the best fighting chance to win.

Lime Cup is always about having fun and that usually happens, but this year we wanted to set our sights on bringing home first place and gaining some bragging rights, of course. Lime Cup is set to take place on March 24th at The University of Central Florida, and this year we are planning to bring some cadets to spectate as well, so it will be nice to have some familiar faces cheering us on. We are all excited to show the other detachments just who we are!



C/Miller speaks to the cadets before flag football tryouts



The set Lime Cup team practices basketball