



# HURRICANE ACES



POC introduce themselves during the first Leadership Lab of the Spring Semester

## TRADITION IN THE AIR FORCE

### CAPT KEMP

If this is your first semester and the first step you have taken in the program you have probably heard the word tradition used frequently. You have heard Cadre and your Cadet Wing Commander talk about establishing traditions and you repeat that you are a part of a "Tradition of Honor" every Friday with the Airmen's Creed. If this is your last semester and you are on your final step in the program, you have been able to see a shift in the traditions established at our detachment. If you are somewhere in the middle of your first step and your last step then you are getting to experience the detachment as it continues to grow and become stronger. Why such an emphasis on tradition though? Why is it that your Cadre are relentlessly pursuing the establishment of traditions within the Det?

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The simple answer is that we want you to learn the traditions of the Air Force but the truth is much deeper than that. The traditions that you partake in here at the Det and the culture that you are a part of and help create connect you to the past, the present and the future. As you step out into your careers and come across Det 155 alumni, your instant connection to them will be the shared traditions that you have. Bonds will be formed over the memories of hands scuffed up from the red surface on the track to the parades you preformed in. Campus loops will have the same agonizing turns, traffic issues and jodies today as they did ten years prior as you connect to the past. Yet, these same traditions are what help you create the culture of the Detachment in the present. When you look to your left and your right at the start of every LLAB and you see your peers about to undertake the same check ride or crucible or pop quiz on the handbook, you will know that you are doing this together with them and that you are never alone. As you all share in the ups and downs of the semester together, the traditions connect you with the present.

Most importantly though is the future you are connecting with. Whether it is the stories of Dining-Ins that you will leave behind or the flight plaque that will remain on the walls for years to come, your actions today will determine the strength of the Detachment for the future. The culture and pride that you build within will set the bar higher for every successive class so that when it becomes time for you to look back as an alumni you can be proud of what you have done here.

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## SFASC AWARDS C/WHITE

LLAB 1 of this Spring was a great way to kick off the new semester. Cadets were first welcomed by Lt Col Vedder introducing the Cadre here at Det 155. Leadership Laboratory contained more informative briefs and a Group Leadership Project. But the highlight of the day was when the South Florida Aerospace Scholarship Corp. (SFASC) arrived to present some incredible scholarships.

The SFASC scholarship was open to all cadets and it seems a lot applied because they gave out a record amount of scholarships this year. Cadets at Det 155 were humbled to receive over \$34,000 collectively from the SFASC. To this date, they have donated over \$500,000 dollars in scholarships to our detachment! Cadet Escudero received the highly prestigious Cesar Borron Scholarship for his outstanding efforts made within AFROTC. The SFASC also presented Lt Col Vedder with a book to keep in his library. All cadets and Cadre in Detachment 155 would like to thank the South Florida Aerospace Scholarship Corp. for their tremendous generosity and selflessness in supporting our future within the Air Force ROTC program.



**Top Left:** AS100 SFASC Award recipients  
**Bottom Left:** AS400 recipients

**Top Right:** AS200 recipients  
**Bottom Right:** C/Escudero receiving his award

# CADET WING COMMANDER

## C/SAMUEL

Becoming the Cadet Wing Commander has been one of my biggest goals in ROTC since I was a freshman. I saw C/Col Loza and C/Col Ruane (now Lt Loza and Lt Ruane) lead the wing with intensity and motivation and it immediately became something I wanted to achieve too.

Now that it has come true, I love every minute of it. It's extremely busy and there is a lot of pressure on my shoulders, but ultimately I get to make every decision and take the wing in the direction that I envision. The two most important parts of my vision are focusing on real world experiences and moving away from "ROTC-isms" (things that don't exist in Active Duty Air Force) and creating a culture that will last beyond my time as

Wing Commander. Everything I do has these two things in mind. Other goals this semester are to prepare FTP cadets for Field Training, teach and retain the 100 level cadets, and expand the leadership abilities of the POC. I am very motivated and excited about the progress we have made already, and am ready to bring my last semester to a close in the best way that I can. Go Aces!

# FIELD TRAINING PREPARATION

## C/SCHIBECI, A.

As the Field Training Preparation Commander, I aspire to be someone an AS200 looks up to. This semester will pose many challenges to these candidates, and I am making it a priority to dedicate my time to them. Moments of difficult decisions will test our cadets' ability to take this next step in AFROTC. I am here to train and evaluate that potential. Goals: Establish a base competency concerning drill. Develop Cadets who are proficient at advanced drill—yet, can as well teach this drill to peers. Maintain a flight composed of Cadets whom hold high PT scores and physical endurance capabilities. Instill a sense of urgency, and communicate the purpose of it. Eliminate all candidates who don't

embody the wingmanship concept.

In all consideration, it is game time. Let us construct the toughest pool of Cadets attending Field Training; a legacy is within our reach.

## C/GONZALEZ, D.

So far, FTP has been an interesting experience. This is primarily because high expectations have been placed upon me by Cadre, POC, and most importantly, myself. My goal, however, is to not only meet these expectations, but to surpass them. I genuinely believe that I will be able to accomplish this feat by continuing to better myself physically, mentally, and by raising my current level of academic performance. Although I plan on making all these interpersonal improvements, FTP is not only about development of the self. A large portion of FTP success is attributed to how good of a wingman you are. I plan to

ensure the safety, and success of my wingmen, as well as my own. The Air Force is successful because of the pieces that make it whole. That being said, another one of my goals this semester is to make it to Field Training, and to do my best to have the wingmen around me enjoy a nice hot summer in Alabama, as well.

## C/ANDRADE

This Semester is very important for all AS200's since it is preparing us to go to Field Training. It is very competitive and challenging since we are expected to perform as best as we can under pressure. Time is against us, there is no room for mistake. Our GPA is already set according to last semester. The AFOQT is coming up soon for some cadets, so they must be prepared. All we can do is improve our score on the PFA and our command presence. Good luck to us all and let's give our best.

# NEW CADETS' GOALS

## C/BROCK

I joined AFROTC because I applied to the February selection board for the AF JAG Corps. I'm currently in my second year of law school at FIU, and if I'm selected in this round, I'll go to field training this summer and then complete one year of AFROTC next year before commissioning. Lt Col Vedder offered me the opportunity to join AFROTC early, so if I'm selected in this round, I won't go to field training unprepared. My goals at AFROTC are to soak up as much knowledge as possible, to push myself in PT, and to grow as an individual, as a wingman, and as a future leader. I'm already seeing better results in my PT performance, so I'm excited to see how much more I can accomplish!

## C/TERRONE

I remember the time I wanted to become a member of the armed forces. It was right after Hurricane Irma as I was helping my father repair our fence which had fallen over. Everything was a wreck, but after helping my neighbors in the aftermath, I felt a need to do more. I felt a need to serve the country that has given my family so much opportunity. I've been here for a few weeks and so far I've really enjoyed my experience here at Detachment 155. My goal is to be the best cadet I possibly can, and I follow Lt Col Vedder's advice: to take one day at a time. I look forward to the coming years and spending more time with my Aces family. I am taking full advantage of what is offered here, whether it be Arnold Air Society, Honor Guard, Flight Ops or Special Ops PT. Detachment 155 does a great job at bringing out the leader in everyone, and that is central to what I am doing here in AFROTC. My plans after AFROTC are to potentially be selected for a Rated Slot, with CSO being my most desired AFSC. I plan to execute on the USAF's Core Values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in all we do. It's these three things plus respect, that will guide me towards success as a cadet here at The University of Miami Detachment 155.

## C/LAWRENCE

My main goal for this semester in AFROTC is to get at least a 90 on the PFA in April. I knew I wanted to be in the Air Force but chose to do ROTC instead of enlisting because I know that ROTC will offer me better opportunities in the end, even though the process is longer. I am excited to learn more about the Air Force and set new standards for myself, as well as see our entire Wing grow and mature as leaders.



**Left:** The Wing plays ice breakers in order to introduce one another

**Right:** New cadets learn the basics of drill

# GET TO KNOW OUR WING

## POC FUN FACTS

**C/Oropeza** is a twin

**C/Schibeci A. and C/Schibeci S.** are Irish Twins

**C/Rodriguez, C.** is a SSgt in the Reserves (Aircraft Maintenance) and is a scout player for the UM Women's Basketball team.

**C/Pryor** played baseball in college for UNF.

**C/Medina, Jessica** played volleyball in college for FMU.

**C/Diaz** prior enlisted loadmaster and is a part of the Homestead Rodeo Association.

**C/Ortiz** lived in Colombia and hiked in the mountains in Rio Negro.

**C/Massiah** has a vlog about life in ROTC.

**C/Zoll** qualified for junior olympics.

**C/Donado** used to be a runway model.

**C/Samuel** did gymnastics for 14 years.

**C/Zimmer** is also prior enlisted and rides motorcycles.

**C/Byrd** is a reverse Chuck Norris (had an entertainment career before serving in the military).

## GMC FUN FACTS

**C/Asmussen**'s parents were in the Air Force (SDSU ROTC and Air Force Academy) and she was born on a AF base in Okinawa, Japan

**C/Rodriguez, V.** has a YouTube channel for singing

**C/Diaz, E.** was a competitive dancer for 10 years

**C/Gann** has trained Krav Maga for 4 years

**C/Stevenson** has never had a hamburger

**C/Stitt** was a ballerina for 6 years

**C/Rios** collects sea shells from all the islands she has visited

**C/Lawrence** is extremely scared of lizards

**C/Ashcroft** was born in Tokyo, Japan and went to a Japanese preschool and a French elementary school  
**C/Brock** is a blue belt and regional gold medalist in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu

**C/Vernet** is deathly afraid of birds

**C/Cevallos** hates fish unless it is raw

**C/Galeiras'** sonar test showed he would be a girl, so nobody was prepared for him to be born a boy

**C/Atkins** knows every song from every Disney movie

**C/Salas** practices Kenjitsu martial arts

**C/Malone** ran track since he was 4 years, and has gone to Junior Olympics

**C/Andrade** graduated high school at 16 in Peru and immediately came to U.S.

**C/Huertas** took 3 years to "binge" watch The Office

