



# WARHAWK CHRONICLE



## End of Semester Reflection

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While the Fall 2019 semester comes to an end, our cadets reflect on what they have achieved so far. C/4C Kim shares with us her first semester as an AFROTC cadet, C/3C Morissette explains his experience as the Cadet Wing Commander for Operation Warhawk, and C/Col Franchi makes his final statement as the Fall 2019 Cadet Wing Commander. They, along with all of our cadets, have worked hard and will continue to strive to continue to improve themselves as students and cadets. Congratulations to the cadets who have successfully completed this semester and we look forward to what they have in store for Spring 2020. Have a fun and safe winter break, see you all again next year!

## My First Semester as an AS100

By Stephanie Kim

Fourteen weeks ago at NSOP, I had thought ROTC would become some form of an extension of my college life, a welcome addition to the other experiences of my first college quarter. Fourteen weeks later at our last LLAB of the year, I find that ROTC is no mere extension of my college life; rather, it's what's making my first year in college the best I could have hoped for. Though I've only been a cadet for less than four months as an AS100, the experiences and growth that being a cadet has imbued upon me are valuable for years to come.

From that first LLAB out on the grassy fields of Keating Track, I've been taught a novel way of



thinking and behaving,  
from learning how to  
think and perform  
critically under pressure,  
to getting acclimated to  
the military environment  
and its customs and

courtesies. There's never been an LLAB or AS class where I wasn't stretching my wealth of knowledge, both about being a cadet and about simply becoming a human being of good character. Each day I'm at ROTC presents a fruitful challenge, the accomplishment of which feels second to none. Getting to that achievement is an adventure in itself, at times riddled with a healthy dose of stress and strain. I've made mistake after mistake in my first semester, but as stressful as they can feel, I can find in retrospect that they've served to build me back together, better.

Being an AS100 has led me to meet some of the most outstanding people as cadets, students, and now peers. My relationships with the other GMC cadets, and particularly the other University of Chicago cadets, are like icing on the cake with the way they have my AS100 year exponentially enjoyable, sweet, and upbeat. They light a motivation within me through their sheer excellence and tenacity, and I can only hope that I may do the same for them. Better still, they're the same cadets that I can crack a jest with in the Cadet Lounge or in cadet carpools;

without hesitation, I know they're the highlight of my first semester. I find it quite astounding yet positively fascinating that this caliber of change in my college life, and my personal



lifestyle as a whole, could have occurred merely within fourteen weeks, considering the nascence of my time in ROTC. The influence of being in this program permeates every crevice of my life, such that I've noticed the Core Values creep into so much of my behavior and line of thinking outside of ROTC. These past fourteen weeks might as well have been more like four; for me, the semester was fleeting and fierce, and I'm still reeling from the action-packed thrill it was. And yet, I couldn't be more ready to roll for the next semester and onwards.

## Experience as Cadet Wing Commander During ORW

By Nolan Morissette

When I woke up on Friday morning, I checked my email to see that I had been chosen as the Cadet Wing Commander for ORW. I immediately went back to sleep. I woke up hours later to find that it was real, my life is in fact a movie.



I was very nervous at first to be the highest-ranking cadet at ORW. I would be responsible for every mistake and everything that went wrong. After my initial correspondence emails with my Vice Wing Commander, Group Commanders, and IG, I was quickly

put at ease. I realized that I had a very capable staff working with me to complete every task. I let all my staff know our mission and the steps we needed to achieve it and they took off. I could not have asked for more effort from all the FTP that helped make this ORW a success.

ORW taught me a lot about the role of a POC cadet and the challenges they face. It was very rewarding to be high up in the chain as it allowed me a lot of insight into each role. I learned the importance of using the chain for not only dispersing information but also for receiving it. I got to experience first-hand the importance of maintaining accountability,



situational awareness, and flexibility at all times. This experience gave me a newfound level of respect for the dedication the POC cadets have for this program.

I feel like I learned more at ORW than I have at any other LLAB. The entire week I was constantly checking my email and watching deadlines to make sure I set my staff up for success. In the end I think we did a great job and I am proud of the work put in by my fellow FTP cadets. I cannot wait to see us continue our success as actual POC cadets.



## Fall Semester Reflection

By Mariano Franchi



As we reflect back on the semester, there are a number of things worth mentioning. The cadets at Detachment 195 have accomplished many great things this semester. It was only 2 months ago, that we were preparing for Rising Warhawk Weekend. Many of the new cadets were still learning how to march. Having no JROTC or CAP experience, I was the same way at the beginning of my first year. By the end of my first semester, I had learned many new things and made many new friends. The best way to catch up to your peers, who have JROTC or CAP experience, is to attend extra events, like Rising Warhawk Weekend.

Next semester, we have many great opportunities set up outside of Leadership Laboratory. We are going to visit an Air Force Base and attend a Field Leadership Exercise. In addition to these opportunities, we are going to be attending the Notre Dame ROTC basketball tournament. 12 cadets will get the opportunity to compete in a basketball tournament against other ROTC Units from across the United States. This is a great opportunity to meet cadets from other Detachments, while having fun. The best way to be successful in AFROTC, is to show up and participate in as many activities as you can.