

AFROTC DETACHMENT 465

Home of 2023 #1 Small Detachment in the Nation



FEBRUARY 2024

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Cadre Corner

Written By: Major Jeffrey Mattheis



On 12 February, the Air and Space Forces Association kicked off their Warfare Symposium introducing over 6,000 Airmen, Guardians, and industry partners to significant changes the Department of the Air Force is implementing to address the growing threat of global great power competition. Many of the changes focus on developing the Air and Space Forces' ability to rapidly increase our acquisition and employment of new weapon systems and combat capabilities across the Air, Space, and Cyber domains. In the same vein, Air Education and Training Command (AETC) shifts its approach to developing Airmen and Guardians, beginning with a name change to Airmen Development Command (ADC). AETC is the major command who presides over AFROTC and all other skills and professional education across the Air Force.

Pre-commissioning officer development was a top concern of AFA. We must ensure our second lieutenants are prepared to think critically and make well informed decisions as they step off the training line and enter the active arena of great power competition. The United States may have the best equipment and capabilities in the world, but it is the professional, credible, and humble Airmen and Guardians who will swing the tide over all adversaries to fight and win wars. It's not the bat, but the batter that wins the game. AFROTC Detachment 465 is leading the charge in preparing our cadets to be the officers our nation needs. Our cadets are truly embracing the profession of arms and applying themselves to the proven processes of military success. Mission focused planning, debrief, and critical self and team assessment are routine terms within Det 465. These cadets are building off the demand and response style training of the 20th century and adding the skills required to adapt and overcome emerging threats and tactics. They are learning the resiliency skills of identifying and admitting failure while forging new paths to success. Across the ADC, formerly AETC, major changes like these are rolling out to standardize this training motif across all commissioning sources: the Air Force Academy, ROTC, and Officer Training School. We are asking a lot of these students and they consistently impress us with their ingenuity and drive to learn and grow. They will be the force and backbone who will defend our way of life in this decade. Adversaries beware!

UNL Air Force ROTC Detachment Earns Top Spot as the #1 Small Detachment in the Nation in 2023



After helping cadets earn spots in some of the most competitively selective programs in the country and delivering top tier talent to the Air Force, Detachment 465 at University of Nebraska-Lincoln becomes one of three top Air Force ROTC Detachments out of the 145 in the nation for the first time in over 15 years.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Air Force ROTC Detachment proudly secured the prestigious Small Detachment of the Year title after competing among other top finalists across the nation, solidifying its commitment to excellence and dedication to shaping the best leaders of character of tomorrow. For some background context, ROTC is a 4-year program that full-time students can participate in with the purpose of commissioning as an officer in 1 of the 5 military branches (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, & Space Force) upon graduation. It is a highly competitive program that is designed to challenge cadets' physical, emotional, and mental capacity and prepare them to take on an immediate leadership position in the military.

ROTC is the largest commissioning source nationwide and routinely commissions more than two times as many Lieutenants as the US Air Force Academy on an annual basis. There are over 145 Air Force ROTC Detachments across the country that commission roughly 2,000 Lieutenants each year. Not only are there high academic and character standards that cadets must maintain, but they must remain physically fit as well. The average GPA for an ROTC cadet is roughly a 3.5 while the average physical fitness test scores above a 90 on a 100-point scale. The room for error and the ability to stand out among a nation of the most talented and academically inclined individuals is no easy feat.

Being recognized as the top Detachment in the nation speaks volumes to the talent and level of commitment these cadets and staff have put in to their deliberate development. Currently it is reported that the armed forces are facing recruiting challenges going into 2024, but at Det 465 the success of the program continues to attract top-tier talent across the country year in and year out.

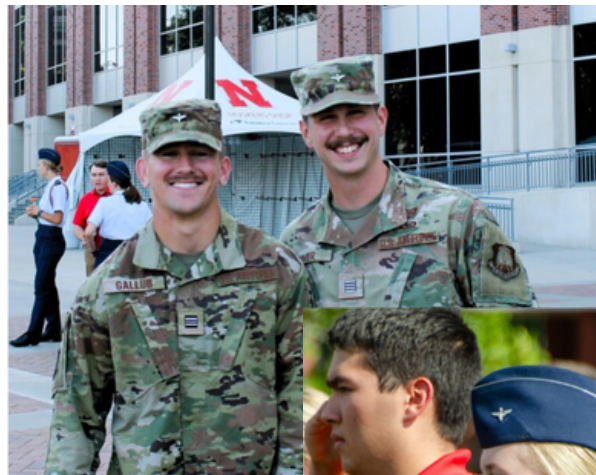
The major graded areas used to shape this year's award consisted of 5 categories: Production, Education, Recruiting and Retention, University and Public Relations and Cadet Activities.

Det 465 currently hovers around 50 students enrolled in its program. Last year, they produced a modest, yet extremely talented 6 Second Lieutenants. All of them competed and were selected for very competitive careers such as pilots & combat systems officers with two being among the top tier of pilot trainees selected for Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, one of which earned an opportunity to further his education by pursuing a fully funded master's degree in operations research before attending training. The remaining 3 students were selected into other highly competitive programs with 2 headed to a fully funded dental school and 1 selected among the very few picked for Special Investigations. Additionally, Det 465 produced the top ranked cadet of 401 students completing last summer's training evaluation period. Plus, the organization gained its second ever direct commission into the newly established Space Force. Not only did the students of Det 465 accomplish incredible feats, but the staff earned significant awards themselves throughout the year across their Region and Headquarters helping make the case for building a well-rounded team that is committed to personal and professional development.

One of the unique experiences of ROTC is that throughout the year, ROTC students get exposure to hear from senior leaders at symposiums and conferences to listen to key messages from senior leaders such as the Secretary of the Air Force or the Chief of Space Operations. Additionally, they routinely receive opportunities to visit bases across the country gaining firsthand experience from senior leaders usually covering base operations and key insights into national defense. It is not uncommon to enjoy flying in an aircraft from time to time on some of the most advanced and lethal aircraft in the world while on these visits.

When asked what winning this prestigious award meant to her, Junior Cadet Raen Lubben said, "It further affirms what we all have known which is that Detachment 465 is one of the strongest ROTC programs... ROTC is not an easy program," she continued, "but nevertheless the 42 cadets who are currently apart of Det 465 pour their hearts and souls into it. For them to be recognized in such a large way should only further validate their hard work and commitment to become the highest quality future leaders for the Air and Space Force." Cadet Lubben is the Cadet Wing Commander and is responsible for leading the Detachment students through the experiential leadership training program while ensuring strategic objectives are met throughout the semester. Raen is also a Forensic Science Major, volleyball coach for Volleyball Club Nebraska, and aspires to become a Security Forces Officer upon completing her degree.

There are no monetary bonuses or grand prizes for winning this type of award. However, it does continue to build pride in the work that these cadets put into the program. These are the students that have at a very early stage in their life decided they wanted to be a part of something that was bigger than themselves and they are committed to take on a leadership role in the Armed Forces immediately upon graduation. From flying a multi-million-dollar aircraft to overseeing Space Operations and acquiring equipment for a multibillion-dollar project, these cadets will be prepared to take on their first job. This path is not for the faint of heart and the hard work these young men and women put in now will pay dividends in the future for themselves and their nation.



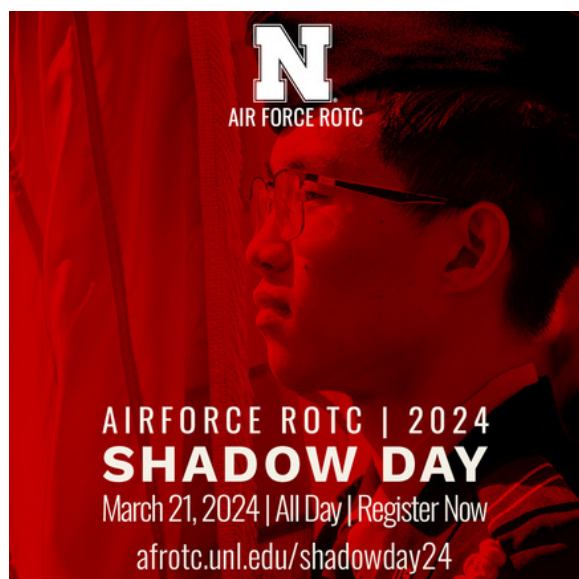
Shout Outs & Upcoming Events

Shout Outs

- Cadet Jillian Rokes was selected for the highly competitive Gold Bar Recruiter Program!
- Commissioning seniors recently received their assignments!
 - Luke Landkamer: Pilot at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma
 - Taylor Ziepkke: Space Operations Officer at Vandenburg Space Force Base, California
 - Michael Price: Munitions and Missile Maintenance Officer at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam
 - Ethan VanEnkevort: Medical/Surgical Nurse at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio
 - Grant Jones: Judge Advocate at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
 - Jillian Rokes: Gold Bar Recruiter, base TBA
- Cadet Ethan Forcade recently got engaged!
- Alum Second Lieutenant Kale Ensser and his fiancé welcomed their son into the world on 6 January!

Upcoming Events

- Mustache March
 - Similar to “No Shave November,” Mustache March is another month-long competition where cadets start off the month clean-shaven and grow out their ‘staches until the end of the month, keeping within grooming standards.
- First Friday (1 March)
- Callsign Night (7 March)
 - FTPs and up have the opportunity to earn their callsign!
- Second Physical Fitness Diagnostic (PFD) of the semester (7 March)
- Shadow Day (21 March)
 - Detachment 465 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is excited to extend an invitation to you to join our detachment for Shadow Day on Thursday, March 21st for an all-day event. This event presents a fantastic opportunity for you to gain firsthand experience of life as a cadet and to explore the various facets of our program that you have likely only read or heard about.



Flying Irish Basketball Tournament

“The Notre Dame basketball tournament will always be my favorite memory about ROTC,” says Cadet Jillian Rokes. “It’s a great way to bond with other cadets and have fun while also playing some basketball.” Leading up to the departure, the team practiced multiple times a week, had team dinners, and scrimmaged Detachment 470.

The team loaded up Thursday morning in a 15-passenger van and set on for our 10-hour road trip. The car ride was filled with singing and laughter, caffeine and candy, and way too many bathroom breaks. For dinner, the team stopped at O’Rourke’s to witness Nebraska’s overtime upset against Wisconsin. “We were hoping we would perform just as our Huskers did against the Badgers.”

Friday morning, the team woke up and performed a make-up LLAB in the driveway of the Airbnb, which included the use of brooms as guidons.

“Our first opponent on Friday evening was the host of the tournament, the AFROTC Notre Dame Flyin’ Irish basketball team, followed by the Flyin’ Illini of Detachment 190 from the University of Illinois. Our morale was high, but sadly our score was not,” adds Rokes.

The next morning, the team faced the joint Navy and Air Force team of Marquette University. “Try as we might, we were unable to overcome our first-half deficit. A highlight from the game was a half-court buzzer-beater that I made that had both benches cheering,” Rokes recites. “In the end, we may not have won our games, but we were able to bond as a team, get to know each other more, meet students from other units, and test SSgt DeWolf’s limits with our constant chattering.”

“This group of individuals has become very special to me. I highly encourage others to participate in this event during their time in AFROTC as it is an amazing experience.”



New Building Move

Over the last couple decades, all branches of ROTC (Army, Navy/Marines, and Air Force) have operated out of the Pershing Military & Naval Science building. Due to the age and current state of the building, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln committed funding in this year's budget to bringing the building back up to code and quality. Some of the expected upgrades to the building include centralized heating and cooling, new windows, and an elevator. For the University to complete this work, all cadre, cadets, and midshipmen were asked to relocate their operations to the old University Health Center, located just east of Hawks Hall (College of Business). UNL ROTC is expecting to utilize this new facility for as long as three years, depending on the length of time the M&N construction and upgrades require.



On the evening of February 7th, the AFROTC Cadet Wing came together with a goal to move most of their belongings into the new facility and to prepare the remaining items for transit with a contracted moving company. The event was organized and managed by Cadet Luke Landkamer. Before the event, he assigned and met with FTP cadets to be “room-leads”. Their role was to lead their assigned room’s team and the process of getting all room contents processed and ready to go. At the moving event, once a room-lead had completed getting their room boxed up, sorted, and prepared to move, Cadet Landkamer gave them the approval to move their room’s contents to predetermined locations in the new facility. Multiple cadets volunteered the use of their pickup trucks to assist in the move which greatly expedited the moving process. Over the course of three hours that night, the 30 volunteering cadets were able to box up, organize, label, and clean six rooms that AFROTC utilized daily and then transport the appropriate items to the new facility without harm or injury to any cadet. Any items that were not moved that evening were prepared for the movers coming the following week. The Wing had a lot of fun during the event and were rewarded with pizza at the end of the night!



This moving event was an amazing large-scale leadership exercise for all cadets. Everyone was able to see the multiple levels of leadership and the associated duties and expectations for each level. As with all things, there were many things that could have been done better, but at the end of the day, the goal of the event was accomplished. Cadet Landkamer wants to extend the greatest of thanks to each and every cadet who volunteered to help with each portion of the move in the recent few weeks. This night was just a glimpse into one piece of the facility move, but illustrates the commitment all cadets have to completing the mission and helping their Wingmen.

Alumni Highlight - 2d Lt Markus Case

Graduating Class: Spring 2023

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Job: 92S0 (AFIT Grad Student)/
92TOE (Pilot Trainee)

A little bit about yourself: I am currently working towards my masters in Operations Research at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT). The Air Force decided that they wanted to plan out my entire career before I started. I am contracted for 17 years and have been gifted the opportunity to attend AFIT, attend ENJJPT, and teach at the Air Force Academy. Outside of the Air Force, I enjoy fitness, sports, and spending quality time with my friends and family.

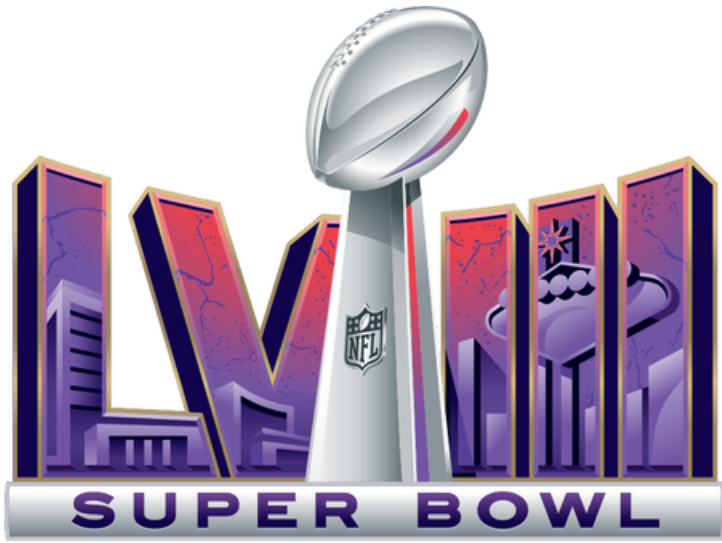
Tips for cadets: Have a good attitude, be a good person, and try your best at everything you do.

Favorite moment(s) from ROTC: Finding out I got bumped my 32 PSCM to a 98 PSCM, receiving a pilot slot, receiving an ENJJPT slot. Being wing commander was a great experience and winning the Joint Field Meet was one of my top moments.

Biggest impact you made on the Detachment: Cadet gym, revitalizing FHBC, getting the Cadet Wing back to normal after COVID.



Super Bowl Watch Party



Cadet Christensen was responsible for planning the Valentine's Day Party on Friday, 16 February. This was a great chance for cadets to hang out at the new detachment. Cadets enjoyed Valentines-themed desserts as well as food and drinks while socializing and playing ping pong and pool. "This was a good opportunity for me to learn about planning an event as well as fulfill the empower part of "DET" though this morale event," says Cadet Christensen. "Overall, I believe that cadets had a good time, and he had a great time planning, carrying out, and executing the party."

Valentine's Day Party

"It was a lot of fun organizing the detachment's Super Bowl party!" says Cadet Kurinec. "I liked organizing everything and seeing the results. I was a little anxious about how the party would turn out and whether I would have enough supplies for everyone because I had never organized or even hosted a party before." Nevertheless, everything went well; there were plenty of cadets present, delicious food, and an excellent game to watch it all with. She is extremely appreciative of the chance to organize the Super Bowl party and a great way to get more involved. This offered her the chance to hone her leadership abilities as well.



Valentine's Day 2024

Cadet Highlight - Cadet Gallub

Graduating Class: Spring 2025

Major: Biology

Desired AFSC: Anything 45XX (Surgery)



My name is Jared Gallub, and I am an AS300 cadet at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). One thing that makes my AFROTC journey special is that I am a cross town cadet, attending Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU). This means that I attend classes at Wesleyan, but travel over to UNL for my Aerospace class, Leadership Laboratory, and Physical Training. Being a cross town cadet has afforded me many opportunities, such as the ability to compete in athletics at the collegiate level. I currently wrestle at NWU. Other opportunities afforded by attending a smaller school include smaller class sizes, and more accessibility to professors. I think that these both contribute to a unique, specific learning environment in which one can thrive academically. I am originally from Long Island, New York, which is a little bit different than Nebraska. In my free time I enjoy playing sports, watching baseball/hockey/college football, and hanging out with my friends.



Tips for Future Cadets: Come ready to be a part of a detachment with an incredible culture, and people that truly want to see you succeed at the highest level.

Favorite Moment from ROTC: Playing Dodgeball against the Cadre during my AS200 year. Even though we did not win, it was a fun experience.

My biggest impact made on the Det so far: During the last two semesters, I was President of the Flying Huskers Booster Club, which is our Detachments booster club affiliate. Through this, we invested over 20,000 dollars into our detachment by purchasing new couches, reclining chairs, TVs, and much more.



AFROTC Lingo

One of the hardest parts of Air Force Reserve officer Training, is learning all of the acronyms. Below is a cheat sheet of some of our common acronyms to help understand your cadet.

- Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) - A standardized test that measures a cadet's verbal, math, and academic aptitudes. The test is used to select applicants for commissioning, as well as specific jobs, including Pilot. This test takes approximately five hours, and is similar to other standardized testing
- Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) - An educational program that allows college students to receive officer training while also earning their degree, then commissioning into the Air Force as a Second Lieutenant (O-1) following graduation.
- Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) - An alphanumeric code that is used by the U.S. Air Force to identify a specific job.
- AS100 - First-year cadets, usually freshmen.
- AS200 - Second-year cadets, usually sophomores.
- AS300 - Third-year cadets, usually juniors.
- AS400 - Fourth-year cadets, usually seniors.
- Cadre - Active-duty commissioned officers and enlisted that lead the AFROTC program. They also teach aerospace classes.
- Dress Blues - Dress uniform consisting of a short or long-sleeve blue shirt, navy blue slacks, belt, black shined low-quarters and flight cap.
- Enrollment Allocation (EA) - Earned by cadets their AS200 year; this provides the cadet with a spot in the Air Force, with their job to be determined later.
- Extended Cadet Leader (ECL) - Cadets that have completed Field Training as well as at least two years of LLAB, but still have one or two academic terms left; Usually fifth years.
- Field Training - Typically two weeks over the summer between AS200 and AS300. This is a leadership evaluation at Maxwell Air Force Base. Completing this allows a cadet to move into the POC.
- Field Training Preparation (FTP) - Cadets training to attend Field Training during the upcoming summer; Usually sophomores.
- Flight Time - An allotted time for a flight to complete extra training. This time is not mandatory and is held by the flight trainer.
- General Military Course (GMC) - The category of cadets that have not attended Field Training. This consists of IMTs and FTPs.
- Initial Military Training (IMT) - Cadets in their first year of training who are not scheduled to attend Field Training; Usually freshmen.
- Intermediate Cadet Leader (ICL) - Cadets returning from Field Training; Usually juniors.
- Leadership Laboratory (LLAB) - An allotted time period used for military training. For GMC cadets, this time is used to train, including, but not limited to, marching and drill, tactics, and procedures. POC cadets learn leadership skills by leading the GMC cadets.
- Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) - Enlisted officers that have not commissioned. In the U.S. Air Force staff sergeant (E-5) and technical sergeant (E-6) are considered NCOs.

- Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) - Camouflage uniform currently utilized by both the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army.
- Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) - A fitness test consisting of a minute of push-ups, a minute of sit-ups, and a mile and a half run. Each component has an associated number of points related to the number of repetitions completed.
- Physical Fitness Diagnostic (PFD) - Physical fitness assessment that is practice for the PFA. Used to see where the cadet is at with physical fitness.
- Physical Training (PT) - An allotted amount of time dedicated to performing physical activity.
- Physical Training Gear (PTG) - Uniform worn when completing PT.
- Professional Military Training (PMT) - An allotted time to complete training. This includes PT and LLAB.
- Professional Officer Course (POC) - The category of cadets that have completed Field Training. This consists of ICLs, SCLs, and ECLs.
- Senior Cadet Leader (SCL) - Cadets scheduled to commission in the upcoming year; Usually seniors.
- Service Dress - Long-sleeve dress blues with the navy-blue service coat. Service coat displays ribbons and, a silver name tag, if the cadet has completed Field Training.
- Uniform of Day (UOD) - The uniform that will be worn during the day.
- Warrior Knowledge - Specific statements that are to be learned verbatim by cadets. This includes but is not limited to the Air Force Song, the Chain of Command, and a series of quotes and mission statements.

