

AFROTC DETACHMENT 465

Home of 2023 #1 Small Detachment in the Nation



August/September 2025

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Cadre's Corner

Written By: Capt Nicholas Fisher

We are about four weeks into the semester, and our large Freshman class is going strong into the learning phase of Air Force ROTC. Check out our Instagram to follow along with events and training operations they're enduring throughout the semester. From New Student Orientation, their first campus march, Husker football, and jumping right into Aerospace Studies and Leadership Labs, all 90 of our cadets are back to a life of academics, campus life, and testing their time management skills. As advisors in ROTC, part of our job is to assist our cadets in how to handle a lot of these challenges and prepare them for the difficulties that life will bring after graduation.

Over the next few months, we will be focusing on getting our 100s set up for ROTC life, getting our 200s, 250s, and 500s prepared for Field Training, and setting our POC up for success in running a fully functioning Cadet Wing with a lot of new students and one of largest Cadet Wings we've ever had in the near history of Detachment 465. Developing our cadets to become capable leaders in our United States Air Force is our main priority. Our cadets graduate from our program to become worldclass officers, and over the next several months through our newsletters and Instagram page we'll be showing some of our past cadets and where they are now. We want to continue to show what our Detachment 465 alumni are capable of, and how they contribute to our National Security and defending our nation.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletters and keep up with our cadets! It means a lot knowing we have you out there rooting for our team and their success. As we continue our journey through this semester and through the rest of the academic year, we hope to build upon that success for our cadets and give them every opportunity to take advantage of what this program has to offer.

Look forward to hearing from you all in the future and continuing our great journey to building leaders ready for our dynamic missions in the World's Greatest Air Force!

Capt Fisher



Advancing Alumni

Written By: 2nd Lt Raen Lubben

Hello! I am Second Lieutenant Raen Lubben, and I currently serve as a Gold Bar Recruiter for South Florida, operating out of Patrick Space Force Base.

In this role, I have the privilege of being a part of so many unique aspects of the Air Force. My main responsibilities include speaking to high school classes, engaging with and supporting the local community, and recruiting for all entities that make up the world's best Air Force. It is an incredibly rewarding job that allows me to connect with future Airmen and Guardians and inspire them to consider a path of service.

One of the primary skills I use in this job is public speaking. When I first started in ROTC, I could barely get through a presentation in front of my Aerospace Studies class without getting nervous. But now, I can confidently speak at school assemblies and large symposiums, sometimes in front of hundreds of people, because of the skills that I was able to develop and grow throughout my time in ROTC.

Looking back on my college experience, there are many special ROTC memories. Some of my favorites include being a part of the Flying Husker Honor Guard and presenting the colors in Memorial Stadium in front of thousands of Husker fans. The energy of the crowd, along with the amazing flyovers coordinated by fellow cadets, is something I will never forget.

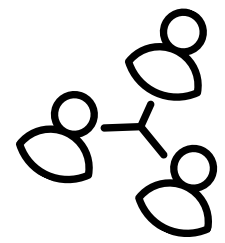
College truly flies by quickly, so make the most of every moment. ROTC is more than just a military training program, it is an organization that challenges you as an individual and allows you to grow into a confident leader. You learn that even when something does not go as planned and you feel like you failed, there is a valuable lesson to be learned.

Even though I am now stationed far from UNL, it will always be home. I will forever be a member of Detachment 465 in my heart and a proud Husker (this will be the year Nebraska Volleyball takes the NCAA Championship, I can feel it)! It is truly bittersweet to recruit future ROTC cadets knowing that they are at the beginning of a journey I have completed, but it is a privilege to give back to the ROTC program that shaped me. I have the opportunity to mentor new cadets and play a pivotal role in their future, just as others did for me. This year has been a full-circle moment, and I truly appreciate Detachment 465 for giving me the foundation to get where I am today.



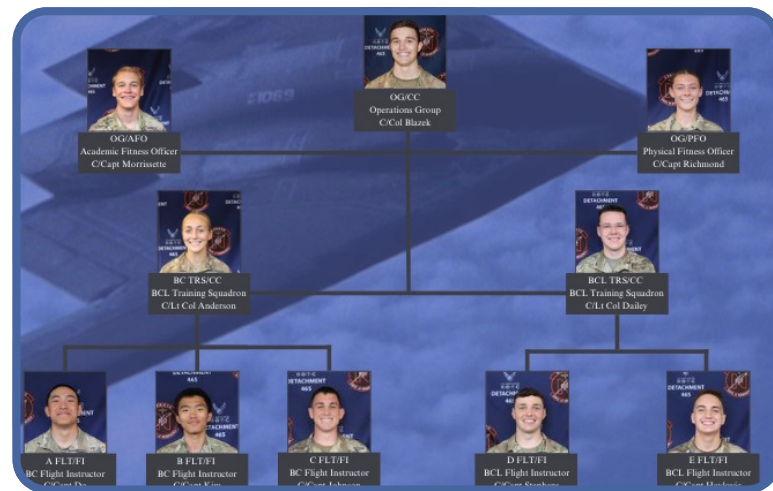
Intro to Ops Group

Written By: C/Col Joshua Blazek



Hello everyone! My name is Josh Blazek and I am a AS400 in the AFROTC program. This semester I am privileged to serve as the wing's Operations Group Commander, OG/CC. The OG is responsible for planning and executing our training events for underclassmen, including PT and LLABs. The OG is made up of Flight Instructors (FIs), Squadron Commanders (TRS/CCs), and Physical and Academic Fitness Officers (PFO and AFO). Together, they do the heavy lifting, planning, and executing training.

Currently there are two squadrons, one for each grade level, with three flights for the freshman and two flights for the Sophomores. The FIs – Cadets Do, Kim, Johnson, Stephens, and Havlovic – are the primary executors of LLAB, teaching and leading their flights each week through various drill and critical thinking exercises to develop and hone their leadership skills. The TRS/CCs, Cadets Dailey and Anderson, oversee training for their respective squadron, planning out the framework of each LLAB. Our PFO, Cadet Richmond, plans and executes three morning PT sessions each week for the entire wing, including the annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, Joint Field Meet, and physical fitness competition between all three ROTC branches. Our AFO, Cadet Morrisette, oversees proficiency in ROTC and university academics, running weekly study hours.



The start of each semester is always dedicated to fundamentals like drill, reporting procedures, and inspections. Later, we start building up and out, with more complex topics and responsibility added. Week 10 brings Final Evals, where the GMC are evaluated on everything learned up until that point. In the final third of the semester, we have some special topics like expeditionary field tactics, a Cadre-run LLAB, and a final awards ceremony.

With such a large group, efficient communication is critical. UNL is in the midst of migrating all university accounts to a new domain. Between duplicate accounts, and issues with sharing and accessing files, it's been a big challenge to maintain our operations. The entire team has been on top of it, keeping communications and operations running smoothly throughout the whole process. This semester promises to be an exciting one, and the entire Ops Group is on their A-game to give the best training possible to the wing!



History Highlight

• Military and Naval Science Building

Written By: C/3C Ayden Brisenio



Hi everyone, my name is Ayden Brisenio! I am a Junior and Electrical Engineering major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and current Honor Guard Commander looking to commission in 2028 as a Pilot or Aircraft Maintenance Officer.

The Military and Naval Science building (M&N) is the headquarters of the ROTC program, originally conceived in the 1930s to serve as a memorial for one of our greatest military leaders, General John J. Pershing. Unfortunately, after presenting their case in Washington, funding for the construction of the building was not provided until 1946, when the Great Depression and World War II were coming to a close. Once the financial commitment from the state was secured the university immediately began construction, providing a proper drill space and superior environment geared toward effective military training for future officers. It was officially titled the Military and Naval Science building after construction ended, and it officially opened in 1947. During the unsettled Vietnam War era, students would stage protests, one that led to the Military and Naval Science Building being overrun as the focal point for antiwar protesters before meeting with the Faculty Senate and University administration. In 2006, the building was rededicated to General John J. Pershing by renaming it the John J. Pershing Military and Naval Science Building, fulfilling the original intent from Chancellor Burnett seventy-five years prior.

Over the past 3 years, the building has been undergoing renovations to build a more effective training facility for future military officers, with internal upgrades and a military tribute out front. The detachment is operating out of the old medical building also known as the Joint Branch ROTC Detachment (JBRD) Building. We excitedly await the return to the classrooms, spacious drill deck, and individual branch lounge the M&N provides when we move back in at the end of the Fall.



1940



2020



2025

POC Spotlight

Written By: C/Maj Stevens

Hello! My name is Shelby Stevens, and I am a senior majoring in Data Science. My preferred AFSC is Pilot, and this semester I am serving as the Information Operations Squadron (IOS) Commander.

Beyond ROTC, I am an active member of the Women's Ice Hockey Club, where I serve as the Vice President of Community Outreach. In this role, I manage relationships with sponsors and donors, organize fundraising events, and lead our social media efforts. I also coordinate and lead off-ice workouts, which focus on strength, conditioning, and team-building to ensure players are prepared both physically and mentally for competition.

This semester I am very excited to serve as the IOS commander. This position is meant to create a positive image of the Detachment through the use of high-quality photos, social media platforms, marketing practices, and alignment with the Cadet Wing Commander's vision and goals. In other words, I take pictures, post on our social media platforms, and create this Newsletter to professionally represent our Detachment.

This semester, I will primarily be managing the Detachment's Instagram account and creating the monthly newsletter with the support of my technician, C/3C Hayden Ricely. Her creativity and enthusiastic personality make her an excellent fit for this role, and I am excited to both work alongside her and serve as a mentor. Additionally, I will be mentoring a group of first-year technicians, Ayden Shook and Cole Nelson, who I look forward to guiding as they begin developing their skills.

The photography side of this position is what I look forward to most. I love to capture different personalities and tell stories through the pictures I take. It is always interesting to look back on previous pictures and see the growth and change of the Detachment throughout the semester. My goal with this position is to capture the development and memories of the Detachment and find ways to represent the detachment in a professional and positive light.



NSO Recap

Written By: C/Col Matthew Leslie & C/4C Hailey Custenborder

Hello everybody! My name is C/Colonel Matthew Leslie, and I am a senior in the AFROTC program. This semester I am the Mission Support Group Commander as the main supporter of the wing objectives. I am 12X select, which is the Air Force Specialty Code for the Combat Systems Officer career field.

This year we hosted the largest New Student Orientation (NSO) in recent history. Detachment 465 hosted 46 new cadets inside the College of Business where we introduced them to our detachment culture and some of the beginning steps they will need to know to get a head start on their AFROTC career.



I want to thank all of our key personnel that helped make NSO the day that it was. C/Major Thompson, C/Dubas, C/Ricley, C/Krog, C/Steele, C/Rogers, C/Good, C/Klingler, and C/Falkinburg. Thank you all for your help as well as to everyone else that was there to support the transition to these incoming cadets! With that support, we were able to tackle the biggest challenge: The Microsoft Migration. For those that do not know, the University of Nebraska system is transferring all staff and students under one email. Our cadre took the step of transferring to their new emails in May, while students do not take the official jump until December. After working through some of the problems, we were able to get cadets full access! C/Capt Thompson and I relied on our team of BCLs to help with the transition by answering smaller questions and assisting.



My name is Haley Custenborder and I am originally from Topeka, Kansas. I am a freshman at UNL studying sports media and communications, advertising, and public relations. While ROTC is very exciting, I am looking forward to football games and starting new classes. As a freshman in ROTC, I attended New Student Orientation (NSO), and it was extremely informational as we learned different drill movements and proper customs and courtesies within the Air Force. While informational, NSO also had some enjoyable activities such as a GLP (group leadership project), ice breakers to learn more about our fellow cadets, and delicious pizza. I thoroughly enjoyed NSO as I feel I am better prepared for the upcoming semester.

nsoc

POW/MIA

Written by: C/Maj Joe Stuedemann

My name is Joe Stuedemann. I am a Senior from Andover, Minnesota and I am this semester's Special Events Squadron Commander.

The 2025 Detachment 465 POW/MIA Ceremony and commencement of the 24-hour POW/MIA Vigil took place on September 17th. Air Force ROTC and the Naval/ Marine ROTC joined together to remember those who are still missing in action, those who gave everything to their country, and those who suffered as prisoners of war so that others may have freedom. While remembering fellow Nebraskans who are still waiting to come home, cadets and midshipmen heard from Col (Ret) Ed Sykes, a retired pilot who has been working diligently to bring home his fellow POW/MIA friends & comrades.

The 24-hour POW/MIA vigil took place right after the ceremony with a table right outside the Union. It was staffed by cadets and midshipman who took shifts throughout the night and day to stand watch, raise awareness, and answer any questions from the public on campus. The Ceremony would not have been possible without the help of Cadets Mois, Cronbaugh, Custenborder, Tarr, Leslie, Pozzi, Stevens, Dubas, Falkinburg, and Briseno, along with midshipmen Hill and Cowan. Also, a big thanks to those who stood watch in the Vigil.

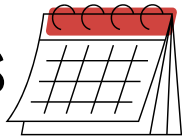


PFA/PFD Superstitions

Written by: Hayden Ricley

On 9 September 2025, Detachment 465 had originally planned to conduct the Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) on the outdoor track. However, due to inclement weather, the event was relocated indoors to the Cook Pavilion and adjusted into a Physical Fitness Diagnostic (PFD). These last-minute changes required quick flexibility and strong coordination from the Operations Group to ensure the transition went smoothly and cadets could still execute the event safely. Because an official PFA cannot be conducted on the turf inside Cook, cadets completed the PFD instead. While the PFA provides official scores, the PFD serves as a practice opportunity, allowing cadets to identify areas of improvement and prepare for future assessments. Despite the unexpected adjustments, Detachment 465 demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and teamwork—qualities that are essential for future Air Force officers.

Important Dates



- Joint Field Meet - 23 OCT 25
- Red Letter Day - 3, 17, 31 OCT 25
- Husker Saturday - 11 OCT

Even with the last-minute change from a PFA to a PFD, cadets stuck to their pre-assessment rituals to stay focused and prepared. Their resilience paid off, with 19 cadets scoring a 95 or higher on the diagnostic—an impressive reflection of their hard work and dedication to excellence.

Known Det 465 PFA/PFD Rituals:

Shelby Stevens - only drinks HALF a red bull the morning of and curls her hair the night before

Joshua Blazek - has a specific pair of shoes he wears only for the PFA

Josephine Hartley - forgets to charge her earbuds the night before

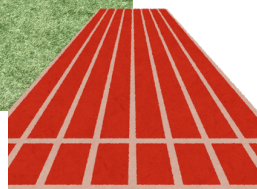
Joe Stuedemann - eats Noodles & Company night before

Madison Kemp - eats one half of a granola bar and drinks some juice before leaving for the PFA

Ethan Covington - prays

Caitlyn Cronbaugh - drinks Celsius, takes Tylenol, and prays

Ethan Steele - constructs the perfect playlist to run to



9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

On September 11, 2025, more than 200 ROTC cadets, midshipmen, and local first responders gathered at Memorial Stadium to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost during the terrorist attacks of 2001. Together, they climbed 2,071 steps, symbolizing the 110 flights of stairs that first responders faced that day.

For Air Force ROTC Detachment 465, the stair climb serves as both a memorial and a leadership lesson. Cadets reflected on the Air Force core values - Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do - as they pushed through the climb, many wearing weighted vests to mirror the sacrifices of firefighters and police officers on 9/11.

“We cannot change the past but we can remember and reflect” C/Col Hartley shared. “So as you go about your day, remember those who lost their lives, remember those who rushed into danger, remember those who were impacted, and remember those who served in conflict in the years to follow to prevent another horrific event like this from happening.”

The event also highlighted the unity across service branches. Army ROTC, Navy ROTC, Air Force ROTC, Nebraska Air National Guard, and local first responders climbed side by side, demonstrating the same joint spirit that has defined the nation’s response since 2001. For AFROTC cadets, it was a chance to reflect not only on history but also on the path ahead as future officers, carrying the responsibility of service forward.

The Nebraska Memorial Stair Climb continues to be a powerful reminder that remembrance is active - a step-by-step commitment to honor sacrifice, uphold service, and strengthen the bond between the military and the community.



AFROTC Lingo

Written By: Cadet Madison Pozzi

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.
- Basic Cadet (BC) - Formerly IMT. Cadets in their first year of training who are not scheduled to attend Field Training; Usually freshmen.
- Basic Cadet Leader (BCL) - Formerly FTP. Cadets training to attend Field Training during the upcoming summer; Usually sophomores.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

