



THE LONGHORN AIRMAN

30 APRIL 2011

VOLUME III ISSUE 4



*Cleared for Takeoff: Super Sabres and Warhawks at the base of the UT Tower*

### Bring It On!

“36 days and a wake-up” as of Wednesday, 13 April 2011...that’s so crazy! As an AS100 (a freshman in the AFROTC program), the journey looks ominous, a trek that seems, when looking at the upperclassmen, long and will take forever. Now, five years later, I can’t believe it’s almost over...or just beginning (depending upon one’s perspective.) Yes, I said five years; I’m on my “victory lap.” There are six of us, and we are the {Super} Sabres!

Whenever an individual asks me how I feel about graduating I tell them it is a bitter-sweet emotion. Undergrad has been an amazing adventure. I do realize, though, that it is hardly ending. In fact, I will soon embark upon an amazing odyssey to which I know my college experiences cannot hold a candle to. I am ready. We are ready. There are 15 cadets commissioning from Detachment 825 this May. Both our universities’ undergraduate programs and Air Force ROTC have adequately equipped us to think critically, communicate effectively, and lead confidently. Of course, there is much more to learn (and always will be), but we have a solid foundation from which to grow. So! With the good times, hard work and curve balls that most assuredly await us, we can say “Bring it on!” as we go off into the wild blue yonder....

*- Jasmine S. Bogard*

### Good Luck, Nighthawks!

To our FTP flight, NIGHTHAWKS - Thomas Burchett, Andres Cepeda, Will Chaney, Dayle Chang, Michael Espinoza, Gabriela Guerrero, Taylor Hale, Tonya Howard, Joshua Ingels, William Lenoir, David Moore, Maykei Nguyen, Christopher Paul, Melany Shearrer, and Caribbean Wawrzyniak:

As you get set for “game time,” remember that you are trained & ready for field training (thanks to StoutB & Weathington). Be confident; be a world-class wingman; be a leader. Longhorn Airman Standard.



### Colonel Staha Takes Command

This summer we welcome Col Jeffrey F. Staha and his family to detachment 825. Col Staha comes to us with lots of leadership and combat experience; he has a big-time passion for the Air Force and all things Texas.

Before joining our team, he was Commander, 3d Air Support Operations Group at Ft Hood.

Safe travels, sir, and we look forward to welcoming you and Miss Roxanne to your new home – Longhorn Airman Country!



*Longhorn Airman Color Guard: Cadets Paige, Chaney, Deitschel, & Salazar*

# THE LONGHORN AIRMAN



**Field Day 2011**

Waking up at 0500 to drive multiple hours is never fun, unless you're in the company of the Longhorn Airmen! We started bright and early meeting in the C Lot on campus at 0545 to group up before we left for Baylor. We headed in caravans of about 2 cars to make sure we got to Waco safely, and on time. My caravan stopped in North Austin for tacos, which was, to me, the best decision of the day. We arrived at Baylor and checked in, with our leader C/Col Stout rallying us all together for shirt pass-out. Just like the previous year at TCU, Baylor had printed shirts with different colors, respective to each school. As we donned our new burnt orange shirts we prepared to engage in the days activities. The first events were Ultimate Frisbee and Basketball. We took 3rd in Ultimate overall. The highlight of the day was Dodgeball, where we mercilessly advanced through each round up to the final versus Baylor. We lost the first of three games, but then went on to win the second and third, thus taking the title of Texas AFROTC dodgeball champions! The rest of the day we participated in events like track, weight lifting, and a pull-up competition. The final event of the day was soccer, in which we advanced all the way to the finals (again versus Baylor) thanks to many goals from Cadets Deitschel, Lindner, Meyer, and Hinojosa. Unfortunately, we just couldn't take the heat in the last game, and lost by one goal.

Texas AFROTC went on to win 2nd place overall as competitors, with first being Baylor (they, of course, rigged the games). While we didn't win the TCU-made 'bomb' for 1st place, we were awarded a consolation 2nd place de-activated bomb by Col Hunt, as he proudly donned a UT hat.

Afterward many of us grouped together to partake in a much deserved dinner and cold drink to celebrate the day's achievements. It was fun seeing friends from other detachments, as well as engaging in friendly competitions to keep the spirit of AFROTC alive. While we all fought over whose school was better, there was one thing we could agree on: at least we are not in Oklahoma.

~ Elinore Ray

## New Birthday Tradition

When most people go to school on their big day, they expect the usual "happy birthday," a card, and maybe even a drink if they're old enough. At least that's what I woke up that February morning expecting, but I was sure in for a surprise. The day started off pretty



well with a 0600 Physical Training session and progressed toward the scheduled Leadership Laboratory at 1100; nothing out of the ordinary yet.

Upon arriving to our meeting location in RLM, I was surprised to see two gentlemen standing on the stage, one of whom was wearing the Air Forces short-sleeved blues uniform with a few modifications. He had his pants oddly tucked into combat boots and a maroon beret stashed under his belt. I knew this could only mean one thing as I quickly took my seat. My suspicions were confirmed when the two guest speakers introduced themselves. The elder of the two was Maj (ret) Thomas Newman, and the one in uniform was SSgt Jason Broline. Both men have served our country as part of an elite group of pararescuemen commonly known as PJs. PJs are a group in the Special Operations section of the Air Force whose sole purpose is to put their lives on the line so "that others may live."

Immediately I thought to myself that this was going to be one of the best briefings I will have the opportunity of attending, however, I was thrown a curve ball when they asked "So where's the birthday boy?" Uh oh! I quickly moved to the stage and introduced myself before being instructed to perform a few push-ups with the graduating class and to sit in a chair on the stage. In a failed attempt to test their elite training, I tried to weasel my way

back to my original position. Unfortunately for me they noticed, so back to "the chair" I went.

I sat there for the entire hour, being amazed by the two heroes' description of their profession. However, one hour to brief was not nearly enough to satisfy a few cadets and my appetite for knowledge, so we went to lunch with them at a local burger joint.

The first thing one will notice about these men is that they are the most humble human beings alive. They flat out do not like bragging about themselves and will purposely avoid doing so. However, once we got them to open up a little bit they shared stories of unbelievable heroics and true valor in and out of combat. Amazing tales of running through the jungles of Vietnam and dangling above a mine field from a helicopter filled our imaginations. We were left with a sense of awe by the time they informed us they needed to head out. The time flew by way too quickly.

These gentlemen are truly amazing. They rightfully embody the essences of an elite Spec Ops warrior; Courage, Strength, Dedication, a Never Give Up Mind Set, and Humility. It was truly a great opportunity to meet them and hear their life stories which led to the day being one of my favorite birthdays so far. The only problem is now I'm expecting to top that next year.

~ Sean Zarsky



There's a name for this kind of grin. Andres Cepeda training for an incentive flight at RAFB

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# THE LONGHORN AIRMAN



Blue Falcon Commander Kamencic (front) & drill team members Suttan, Jones, Salazar, Deitschel, Maness, R. Kim, Truong, Howard, and Castro (l to r)

## Beak and the Blue Falcons

“Beak and the Blue Falcons” – it sounds like a new dynamic duo, doesn’t it? Ka-POW! They certainly were the one-two punch of our annual Det. 825 Dining Out on 8 April.

General “Beak” Howell was inspiring as our guest speaker – exactly what we would expect from an accomplished Marine. His message was a great one: “an officer must always be prepared for inspection.” The Longhorn Airmen will long remember this simple and essential advice, as well as his more practical nugget – “Never pass a [restroom] without using it!”

Our Blue Falcons, the detachment drill team, was the other big highlight of the evening. Performing for the first time in more than 13 years, the team, under the command of Cadet Amela Kamencic, was magnificent. They were definitely ready for inspection.

Dining Out was a class act from start to finish. We celebrated traditions and enjoyed each other’s company, all under the watchful eye of “Beak and the Blue Falcons,” of course.



“Perfect Pitch” ...Cadet Hitzfeld sings National Anthem at UT baseball game



The Archangels and AAS actives present Skit Night

## And From the Ashes...

...of the Bullseyes, who came before them, rose the majestic and entirely too hilarious Arnold Air Society candidate flight, the Archangels. There are now 11 solid members of our flight: Tyler Cu-Pierson, Michael Espinoza, Rebecca Kim, Tyler Maness, Wendy Meyer, Justin Paige, Isaac Ramirez, Jessica Rodriguez, Arianna Rojas, Jared Thornton, and Tim Truong. And each of the members of the Archangels flight has pulled together into a cohesive group with outstanding achievement, one that rivals any of the candidate flights that came before us.

Sure, in the beginning the Archangels had a rough ride. We didn’t necessarily know each other that well, and we didn’t really know the type of leadership that would be needed to form 11 individuals into one successful flight. There were many bumps on the road to learning how to do this together. But we hung in there, from the pressure of putting on one of the earliest skit nights in AAS history with very little preparation to attempting to raise \$600 dollars to help out Tsunami-ravaged Japan as a signature requirement, and the Archangels flight is better for it. In addition, many would say that our skit night was one of the best ever recorded in John H. Payne Squadron’s history (unless you ask an Active, then it’s their flight who was only “slightly” better)!

However, despite our success, the Archangels owe many people a great deal for the progress that we have made since the beginning of the semester. We had excellent DTs who helped us to form the familial bond that we have within our flight. We had an excellent commander who took it upon herself to improve Arnold Air Society at UT and made sure the candidates maintained good grades and participated in the detachment outside of AAS. And lastly, we couldn’t have made it this

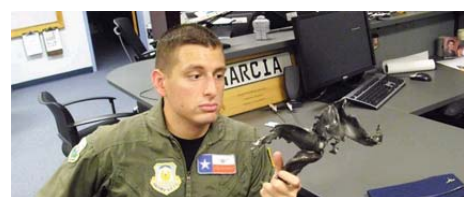
far without the input and guidance we have received from the Active members of Arnold Air Society throughout this process.

On a personal level, I feel that I am a much stronger and knowledgeable cadet. I feel that Arnold Air Society has helped me, and all of my flight mates to become more competitive for field training slots by giving us a head start on the knowledge required to succeed at Detachment 825 and within the Air Force as a whole. The Archangels and I are ready to graduate and push our training to the next



Just how far would you trust a guy in a skirt and pink wig? The author takes a dip at Skit Night

level, where we can share our newly acquired knowledge with the next group of cadets and candidates. Plus we just can’t wait to find out what NORSE really means. ~Justin Paige



“I’m not sure I want to know.” José Machuca ponders what can happen when things go wrong.

# THE LONGHORN AIRMAN

Join us for commissioning  
0900 20 May 2011  
In the Texas Union Ballroom

New Cadet Orientation  
21 August 2011  
Follow [www.det825.org](http://www.det825.org) for details



Cheech Takes Command. Cadet Amela "Cheech" Kamencic assumed command of the cadet wing on 30 April



AS300s Rule...Again. AS300 class earns Longhorn Airman Centurion Award for the third consecutive semester



Parade practice on the Main Mall



Rated candidates KStout, Machuca, BStout, Hinojosa, Forkner, Le, and S. Kim with Col Bowman (center)

## RATED SLOTS!!!!

My palms are sweaty, knees weak, arms are heavy... I'm nervous as I walk into Colonel Bowman's office to receive the final decision on my rated slot. As I walk into his office and close the door, I don't know whether I am about to hear devastating news or news that will make my career. I end up hearing the best news I've received in my entire life. I finally felt like all the hard work and hardships I have overcome throughout my life had paid off when I heard the words "You are going to be a pilot in the United States Air Force." I had finally reached step one in my goal of becoming a pilot. Attaining a pilot slot was the culmination of many experiences both positive and memorable. However, it didn't really sink in until I heard the roar of cheering and applause as Colonel announced "PILOT!" to the wing. It was then, that emotions of joy, excitement, and satisfaction rushed through my body.

But this joyful ending to one chapter in my life came with many more obstacles and responsibilities. Although there is still a long way to travel in our journey, Cadets Stout, K., Stout, B., Kim, S., Le, Machuca, Forkner, and I are more than excited to take on these challenges to achieve our dreams.

~Joey Hinojosa

**May Events**  
5—Awards Day  
7—Salt Lick/Couch Stories  
13—Senior Send-Off  
20—Commissioning

Keep up with the Longhorn Airmen  
at [www.det825.org/](http://www.det825.org/)



## Battle of the Branches

Three long strenuous days of effort has made the Air Force a better team and has shown the Army and Navy we can compete with them on the "ground." Conquering in trashball, basketball, and knowledge tests (of course) the Longhorn Airmen were prepared and ready for battle at all times.

Though the Navy took home the trophy for the 2010-2011 Tri-Service games, the Longhorn Airmen left the steps of the tower with the accomplishment of successful teamwork and a job well done.

~Andrea Collins