



# The Accelerator:

## AFROTC Det 045 Monthly Newsletter

### October 2022



### Q&A With Detachment 045's Newest Cadre Member:

### Captain Benjamin Goirigolzarri

By C/3C O'Keefe and C/3C Valdez



1. **Did you obtain your commission through AFROTC, USAFA, or OTS? And with what degree did you graduate with?**

I commissioned through USAFA in 2016 with a BS in Operations Research.

2. **What is your AFSC and where have you been assigned to?**

I am a 63A, Acquisitions Manager, by trade. My first assignment after commissioning was to get my PhD in Policy Analysis in Santa Monica, CA. After that, I

moved a few miles south to do space acquisition at Space Systems Command at Los Angeles AFB, CA.

## **O&A Continued**

**3. What were your day-to-day tasks at your last assignment? What were your biggest responsibilities there?**

I spent my final year at LAAFB as the Space Systems Command Commander's Speechwriter. It was a niche role and a great opportunity to learn from one of our brilliant senior leaders. My days were spent understanding and researching my boss' upcoming speaking roles, figuring out logistical minutia, and aligning Space Systems Command's messaging with what the audience wanted/needed to hear to further our objectives at the Command. My greatest responsibility was to give my boss accurate and compelling talking points/speeches to deliver both internally and to the public, ranging from welcome briefs to Congressional Testimonies.

**4. What struggles, if any, did you face when transitioning from a Cadet to a Second Lieutenant?**

I think everyone's post-commissioning challenges are unique to their situation. Mine centered around learning how to live and be a functioning adult in a massive and densely populated city that was entirely unfamiliar to me. I was fortunate to face these challenges in the comfort of academia, but I won't understate the growth that was needed to really make the most of that assignment. Simple things like cooking, paying bills, and balancing life and school were novel challenges that I certainly hadn't anticipated, but increasingly appreciate as I reflect upon those early post-commissioning years.

**5. What are you most excited about in your position as a cadre member here at Det 045?**

I am so excited to be here for a few reasons. Having only spent a couple days in the office so far, I can already tell that I'm working with an elite and caring group of professionals in Det 045 who've created a welcoming and challenging culture within which to grow our future leaders. Being a part of that and sharing my experiences and perspective with our next generation of leaders is the most rewarding and important thing that I will do in my career. I am so excited to learn from the cadets of Det 045, to hear their diverse perspectives, and to see them effect change in all that they do.

# **F-22 Demo Team Meet and Greet**

**By C/3C Miller and C/3C Nava**



In AFROTC there are a vast number of unique opportunities for us as cadets to experience. One of these opportunities was a meet and greet with the F-22 Raptor Demonstration Team. On October 2nd, our detachment visited the USAF F-22 Demonstration Team at the Capital Airshow in Sacramento, where they were performing. We were graciously given passes to the airshow, a one-on-one meet and greet with the F-22 pilots and ground crew, as well as a walk around the aircraft itself. The F-22 Raptor is the Air Force's most advanced fighter jet and these pilots are highly trained in their airframe. Being able to ask these pilots questions and see the aircraft in person is a highly sought after opportunity.

Although pilot is not the only job in the Air Force, there are a large number of cadets that want to be pilots at our detachment. When given the opportunity to ask a couple of the most specialized Air Force F-22 pilots questions, we didn't hesitate. Our cadets made sure to inquire about everything from career advice to airframe specific questions. Because these are highly skilled pilots with years of experience, their insight into the F-22 and career advice was extremely valuable and very much appreciated.

# **Cadets Volunteer at the IRONMAN 70.3 Santa Cruz**

By C/3C Paez and C/3C Valdez



On September 11th, 2022, 12 cadets from Detachment 045 volunteered at the IRONMAN 70.3 Santa Cruz Triathlon. The IRONMAN Triathlon consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bicycle ride and a marathon 26.22-mile run completed in that order, for a total of 140.6 miles traveled. This triathlon is considered one of the most challenging one day sporting events. Participants who are able to complete all facets of the race in the allotted time of 8 hours and 30 minutes earn the title Ironman.

The cadets from Det 045 were able to assist in the successful completion of the IRONMAN Triathlon by setting up and tearing down various portions of the event, directing athletes participating in the race, and ensuring the participants had an adequate supply of water during the race. Since 2003, over \$55,000,000 have been provided through IRONMAN charitable giveback programs including the IRONMAN Foundation to more than 10,000 local, regional, national and global nonprofit initiatives! For the cadets of Det 045 to be able to aid in this organization's charitable efforts is an honor. After a long day's work volunteering, some of the cadets went to the nearby beach to relax and reflect on a job well done.

# **Fall 2022 AFROTC Warrior Challenge**

**By C/3C Lapizco and C/3C Amin**



On October 1st, 2022, various GMC and POC represented Detachment 045 at the Fresno State Detachment 035 Warrior Challenge. After 2 years of lockdown, Northern California detachments were finally able to compete for the warrior trophy once again. Detachments represented at the event included Sacramento State University (Det 088), University of California Berkeley (Det 085), San Jose State University (Det 045), and Fresno State University (Det 035). To compete for the Warrior Trophy, these detachments had to face off against one another in 4 athletic challenges. These activities were flag football, soccer, ultimate frisbee, and an Airmen relay race. Each sport was played twice, each detachment taking on the winning or losing teams depending on the outcomes of other matches. Although not many cadets were present from Det 045, we gave it our all during every challenge. C/Lt Col Kim and C/Maj Berrien were breaking ankles (including their own) to selflessly carry the Spartan Airmen to victory in both soccer and ultimate frisbee. After all the events, our detachment placed third in the Warrior Challenge behind Fresno State. Regardless, the morale of the cadets was at an all time high. The AFROTC Warrior Challenge was a great social event to meet and compete with other AFROTC cadets. We are excited to represent our detachment next year and try to bring home the Warrior Challenge trophy.