

April 2007

THE ROOK READER



Flying Castle at 45th Infantry Division Museum, 17 Mar 2007

WHAT'S UP: FCCS CURRENT EVENTS

It's been a busy month. For the cadet program, it has been the culmination of a fast-paced first quarter. In the home stretch alone cadets have toured museums, gone aloft for the first time, competed with the rest of the Wing, and received acceptance notifications for Special Activities.

Aerospace Education usually takes the lead at our monthly tours. This month, however, AE aviation was a supporting element at the 45th Infantry Division Museum where cadets learned about the history of a decorated unit, the holocaust, and the machines and men that have defended our way of life for a century.

Orientation flights are one of the most memorable incarnations of our internal aerospace education program. This month many of our cadets got their first taste of flight this way.

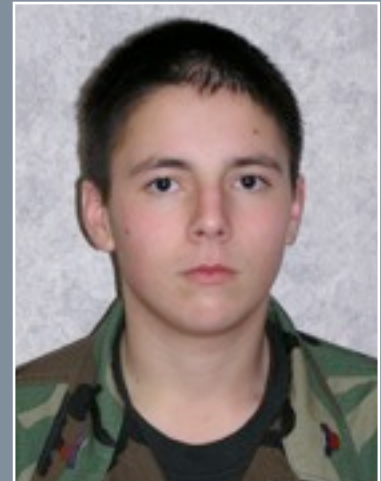
Early in the month our Color Guard squared away against Wiley Post at the Wing competition. Though they didn't win, the team is stronger for the experience and ready to move forward with public presentations this year while looking forward to a rematch next year!

The month long process of application and evaluation for national cadet special activities is finally nearing fruition. Several cadets have already been notified of selection as primaries for events including Cadet Officer School, National Flight Academy, and more.

If you'd like to keep up with the goings on in the Squadron between newsletters and weekly meetings, please check out the regular updates on the Squadron website, including lessons slides, activity photos, and more!



FOCUS ON...



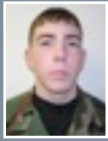
C/A1C Andrew DuCoin

- Parents:** Cherie & Ron
- Siblings:** Trent, Ryan, and Ronnie
- Pets:** 2 dogs, Chipper & Daphnie
- Favorite Color:** Orange & Blue
- Favorite Food:** Meatloaf
- Sports:** Football & Baseball

FCCS.OKWG.CAP.GOV



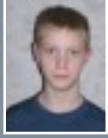
WELCOMES



C/A1C Nathan Barr



Haiden Boitnott



Taylor Dubea

PROMOTIONS



C/Amn Caitlyn Colvert
C/A1C Nathan Barr
C/A1C Ryker Lirley
C/SSgt Ryan Colvert

AWARDS



Outstanding Cadet

C/2d Lt Jacob Landon

Outstanding Cadet NCO

C/CMSgt Ryan Jones

Parent's Club

Outstanding Contributor

Joyce "Grandma" Huelle

Wright Brothers Award

C/SSgt Ryan Colvert

Cadet Recruiter Ribbon

C/A1C Josh Del Prado

BIRTHDAYS



Trent Cooper, 1 April
Caitlyn Colvert, 5 April
James Casey, Jr., 19 April
Ryan Colvert, 29 April



Commander's Corner: Spring Forward



Capt Danny Colvert
Commander

"April is the cruelest month..."

So begins the epic poem by T.S. Eliot, The Waste Land. I first read this work when a freshman at OU. It wasn't by choice and I didn't understand it. The textbook had about 3 pages of footnotes that went with the poem. As if that wasn't bad enough, the graduate assistant, a self-absorbed, navel-contemplating, wish-I-was-in-Berkeley type, loved to dwell long and hard over precisely what Eliot meant when he used the word "the." In frustration, I started referring to the author as T.S. Idiot.

It wasn't until years later when taking a Literature course at Rose State, under the tutelage of a real PhD, that I was finally led to understand Mr. Idiot. The Waste Land concerned itself, at least in part, with spring's rebirth of life from the lifelessness of winter. April, in bringing forth new life, also brings the pain of birth, thus the "cruelest" month. Okay, maybe that's a bit of a sideways perspective, but I finally came to see that Eliot really wasn't an idiot.

So, where am I headed with this? Fair question. I actually have two points. Please bear with me.

I realized that, despite how devastatingly brilliant I was at the ripe old age of 18, I still had a lot of learning to do. I've definitely come a long way, but I've discovered that the more I know, the more I realize I don't know. For every answer found, two more questions arise. But this is not depressing. On the contrary, it is exciting. It insures that life remains interesting and full of promise.

Remember that growth, in whatever way you choose to measure it, is a constant process. That applies whether you're learning to drill, learning to fly, or learning to lead. We are, all of us, every one, learning every day. Otherwise, we stagnate. Do not let yourselves stagnate. Work toward that next stripe, that silver bar, those wings. Don't wait for someone to ask you what you want to do. Look inside and ask yourself why you are here. What do you want out of this program? Find an answer, and then go after it. Take initiative. Take on a task. Take charge. Take yourself to the next level. It's springtime, after all, so engage yourself in

something new.

April is indeed a month replete with symbolism. There is life, there is pain, there is renewal. Long before our current calendar, the new year began in the spring, with the vernal equinox, when the hours of daylight again outlasted the darkness and new life poured forth from the Earth.

Many, many Apriks later, the pain of birth was felt upon a bridge between Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts, with the "shot heard 'round the world." I have stood on that spot. I have seen the decorations memorializing the deaths of both the Colonials and British soldiers who lost their lives there that day. But we have all seen the new life that sprang from that event in the form of the greatest nation on Earth.

Then, eleven score years later, another pain was experienced. It was right here, in Oklahoma. I have stood on that spot. I saw our very own Waste Land, devoid of life, of hope, of redemption. It was April: the cruelest month.

But now, there is a beautiful, moving monument where demons and devastation once held sway. There is life, purpose, solemnity, and an old oak that simply refused to die. It is hallowed ground. This April, we will be helping with the Oklahoma City National Memorial Marathon, held in remembrance of what was lost and in promise of what is to come. As we work there, let us not lose sight of where we are and why.

I will not pretend to be a sage, telling you how to interpret such things; I will leave that to those such as Eliot. But I have my own convictions, and, as such, cannot help but see the intrinsic hope that springs eternal. With faith in the future, I remember the past, and learn by experience.

So, my message this month, this April, is to embrace the future, expand your horizons, and take charge of your destiny. Spring forward, but remember where you came from and those events that have made you who you are.

Oh, one other thing: Both my son and daughter were born in April. In my universe, those two events pretty much eclipse everything else. So, with all due respect to Mr. Eliot, I think April is a fantastic month!



Color Guard: Competition Comes & Goes

 C/CMSgt Ryan Jones
Cadet First Sergeant

On the tenth of March, cadets from all around the state gathered at the Airman Leadership School on Tinker Air Force Base for the Cadet Color Guard Competition. Flying Castle took five cadets that had practiced many hours to prepare for this weekend. Those attending were Cadets Ducoin, C. Huelle, Jones, Leird and Lirley.

The competition is divided into seven separate parts that are graded. The scores are then combined and used to determine the winner of the event. In four of the sections, the teams are judged on their appearance, composure and handling of the Colors. The remaining parts are an academic test, a quiz bowl, and a mile run.

A Color Guard has four cadets with one alternate in case a member gets sick or cannot compete. Our Color Guard did very well and was only one event away from taking first place.

While the competition is a great event, it is not the reason for a Color Guard. A Color Guard is formed to pay honor to the Colors and make public appearances. In the future months, we will be making several appearances at public events. If you are interested in being part of the Color Guard (and wearing a cool white cord), contact C/CMSgt Jones.



Emergency Services: My First FTX

 C/A1C Shelley Leird
Cadet Logistics Officer

I attended the FTX in Enid on March 3rd. The first part of the day was spent inside a cold, makeshift office. C/TSgt Huelle and I watched Death By Powerpoint, loosely called "academics". It was ninety percent common sense, but I did learn a few things, such as to never rub frostbite. The frozen molecules of your blood will cut you from the inside. I didn't know that; now I do. Plus, I have a pretty gross picture to associate with frostbite now.

Next came lunch – always a fun time for me – hamburgers and hot dogs. I don't eat hamburgers, so I thought I'd have a hotdog. (My logical reasoning is astounding, isn't it?)

After lunch, C/TSgt Huelle and I went on a "ramp check". I made Huelle come with me to do "ground to air signals". If you don't know what that is, it's having a plane fly by several times while you're on the ground



with a tarp (each side a different color), making a shape with the colors to get a message across. Once we ran out of tarp signs, we got to lie on the ground and make shapes with our bodies. Sound like fun? It was, but would have been better had there not been any horse manure. After our signals to the airplane, the airplane gave signals to us. This was a little hard to do, as it was windy and the plane small.

C/TSgt Huelle and I then went in search of a distress beacon. It was kind of like a strange treasure hunt. When we returned to mission base, we joined a simulated missing person search, and I was the one who was supposed to keep the log. Writing with frozen hands is not easy. I walked through so many thorns, you wouldn't believe it. Walls of them, seriously. I saw a dead cow, so now I will never eat hamburger, for that picture is also seared into my brain. Gross! After that adventure, it was dinnertime. Hamburgers or hotdogs? Again.

It was now time to hit the road. Luck for you, Tinker AFB is a fair distance from Enid, so the story isn't over. Our conversation was vast. It



ranged from things to say in the background when someone is talking on their cell phone, to C/TSgt Huelle smelling like bologna. My bad, Huelle. Overall, I learned things, ate hotdogs, and had fun. It was a good day, and I can't wait for the next!



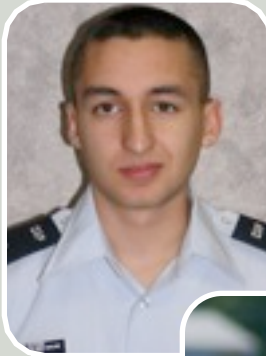
CADET UPDATES

Cadet Commander

 C/2d Lt James Casey
Cadet Commander

As you may have already noticed, as a new quarter of the year rolls around, staff positions are shifting. I ask that you give those with new staff positions your full support and patience as they learn their new jobs.

Even if you did not apply for a staff position this time around, nothing is stopping you from doing so in the future. Just continue to set a good example from within the ranks of FCCS by your good attitude, customs and courtesies, and working your hardest on making your uniforms look perfect. Continue to gain rank as fast as possible!



Commander's Call

 Capt Gerrit Dalman
Deputy Commander for Cadets

To mark the end of the first quarter we held a Commander's Call to assess our performance over the past few months, discuss our plans for the future, and recognize the achievements of our many fine members. If you were unable to attend or would like to refresh your memory on just how high the Cadet Commander set your recruiting goals for the quarter, you will find the slides from the presentation in the "Lessons and Briefings" section of the Squadron website.



FLYING CASTLE

PO Box 45634
Tinker AFB OK 73145

**First Last
Company
Work Street
Work City Work State
Work ZIP**