



FANGS OUT



396th ATRS NEWSLETTER
SQUADRON SPECIAL EDITION
MARCH 1999 to MARCH 2019

Twenty Years of Youth Military Excellence





20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Twenty years is a long time for an organization that was thought to last only a few years. That is if you listen to those that doubted the new unit as a “real military youth unit.” Well, things move on and things change when you commit yourself as did the first pioneers of the United States Air Force Explorers back in 1999.

The story goes that in February 1999, 1Lt Ron Smith (father of cadet Zach Smith at CAP SQ 301) was looking for more than he bargained for. Talking to LTC Lowrie (SQ 301/CD) he was intrigued by the idea so much that he began a search for an alternative youth program. At the time Lowrie had been in CAP since 1972 working in Texas WG, Florida WG, and AZ WG with Emergency Services and Cadet Programs from the unit level up to Group and Wing directorates.

After doing some research, Lowrie found that the BSA Exploring Division had some Military Units such as Army units training Infantry, Armor, and Military Police. The Air Force had Security Forces through Law Enforcement Exploring, but only one Air Force unit, the 156th Wing of the Puerto Rico ANG had developed an Air Force group training youth in an Air Force program with an emphasis on disaster relief due to the island location. After discussions with 156th WG unit personnel, Lowrie then approached the Grand Canyon Council with an idea of forming a unit with the 161st Air Refueling Wing, AZ ANG at Sky Harbor International Airport. Jim McKitterick was the Exploring Executive that helped charter the unit, but Col Lowrie also had to sell the idea to the 161st.

Maj. Khrisna Greene was the POC for the 161st since he was already the sponsor for a current Exploring unit on the installation. Lowrie met with Maj. Greene for lunch at the fabled Left Seat Restaurant over at Sky Harbor. Both were familiar with the place since CAP SQ 301 access gate 113 was in the same vicinity as the Left Seat. So this was familiar territory for both officers. On a napkin Lowrie then laid out the plan for an Officer Training School that would train youth with an AF curriculum designed to emulate the USAFA with Professional Military Education (PME) for youth desiring a commission in the AF through the various accession routes, but primarily the USAFA.



Well, after about 20 minutes of explaining, discussion, and laughs, Khris let out a familiar saying in the pilot community, **“YGBSM!!** Well, Col. Lowrie continued on his talk with Khris becoming more wide eyed and amazed in the process. After some phone calls, gathering of paperwork, and command approval, the unit 396th Aircrew Training Squadron (396ATS) was slated for activation in May 1999. But first, the gaining command had to be established and the working bones of the unit had to be formed.

Under the guidance of Col. Lowrie and C/Lt. Col. David Crusoe, the team started meeting on base in March and every Saturday morning at 1Lt. Ron Smith’s home to form what would be known as the U.S. Air Force Explorers. Using their combined skills with a team of adults and cadets from SQ 301, the task force began to lay the foundation for

one of the finest, toughest, military minded youth programs in the country. Those early pioneers had lofty goals of making a premier cadet orientated year round training program that would show others that **“it could be done.”** One of the early sayings heard by the team was the phrase, **“Not Why**, but, **“Why Not?”** A change in working philosophy saw them look at all training, uniforms, military environment and other youth military issues in a totally different perspective that is still used to this day. Nothing is off limits, out of bounds or not to be considered. Dream big, dream often, but never quit.

In the beginning you had hope of greater achievement, outlook with enthusiasm combined with pushing the envelope of youth military training that had never been done before. Those early cadet pioneers set forth for others to follow many years later a legacy which is firmly entrenched in Squadron lore, myth, and legend. Today the torch is carried by a new spirit of cadets’ whom carry forth today for others to follow tomorrow.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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396th Aircrew Training Squadron
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In the early years the curriculum was focused only on Airmanship. Every cadet was exposed to FAA Private Pilot Ground School, with a twist on AF Pilot Training thrown together as well. In the coming years due to cadet interest, AF Special Tactics covering PJ/CRO career was developed. Then another pipeline was conjured up to become the Air Intelligence career field. These gave a few more career fields for cadets to learn, train, and involve themselves furthering their ability to see an actual AF career path.

Summer training would see the unit travel to Luke, Davis-Monthan, Kirkland, and Nellis AFB's to allow cadets a glimpse in to the various areas that make up AF life. Along the way they were exposed to many different looks at how Airman work, live, and survive on an installation. This exposure help define what being in the military was all about. Exposure came in a variety of areas that showed teamwork, dedication to a career field, and everyone's favorite, USAF Chow. Comments on chow were always interesting, especially from those who had chosen another service branch (just ask an Alum, Veteran, or current serving Alum).



While the process has not changed that much at all, new unit customs and traditions came on to continue with unit performance making sure that every single cadet got a true AF military experience. Of course being on base with the 161st ARW has helped us tremendously to keep our sacred environment in place for others to follow on.

So walk down memory lane now in the way it was for you and others in your OTF Class. Recall the times of despair, dread, or happy pleasantries as presented here for you along with your fellow cadets. Let's remember.....

- *Orientation Briefing
- *Interview Board (possibly your first ever Interview)
- *OTF Class Induction Day (the helpful **"Welcome, we're glad you're here!"**)
- *Numerous classes, briefings, and endless PPT which we all loved by all
- *Formations, formations, drill, formations, drill, and more formations
- *Physical Fitness Training (football, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, water polo, weight room workouts)
- *OTF Chow Time (your first true military meal, Yum)
- *Infamous OTF FIRE DRILL
- *Commissioning Ceremony (remember your Commissioning question?)
- *SQ Commissioning Dining-In (**"You've lost that loving feeling"**)
- *Follow On Career Assignment (Airmanship, Special Tactics, Air Intelligence)
- *SERE training (your first MRE)
- *Operation TALON EAGLE CSAREX (dreaded capture by the enemy or POW camp)
- *Various Recruiting details (Scout-O-Rama, CSAC, School career fairs, etc...)
- *SAT UTA Movie Time or SQ Movie at the cinema
- *BSA Support Activities (Eagle projects, flag burning detail, community support)
- *Friendships' and Memories made



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396th ATRS Activation Cadre

Lt. Col.'s Calvin Lowrie & Harvey Miller

Capt.'s Boyd Guayante & James Cannon

1Lt.'s Gary Niki & Ron Smith

C/Lt. Col. David Crusoe

C/Capt. Carrie Russell

C/2Lt.'s Adrian Hawtin, Neil Maguire & Zach Smith

161st AREFW Activation Cadre

Col. John Rix

Maj. Khris Greene

MSgt. David Castro

MSgt. Eric Webster



20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OTF FLIGHTS



OTF 99-01

"IN HOT"

C/2LT Travis R. Aldrich
C/2LT Geoffrey G. Bilas
C/2LT Ryan M. Cordova
C/2LT Jason T. Crenshaw
C/2LT Morgan K. Davis
C/2LT Brandon P. Favazzo
C/2LT Matthew P. Fox
*C/2LT Joshua S. Goddard
C/2LT Alden M. Larrick
C/2LT Joel I. Maguire
C/2LT Mariska V. Madrano
C/2LT Joshua D. Mehr
C/2LT Derek R. Phelps
C/2LT Israel Plath
*C/2LT Wayne A. Robbins
C/2LT Robert D. Treadway
C/2LT Juan V. Trujillo
C/2LT Nathan R. Waters

OTF 00-02

"FIGHT'S ON"

C/2LT Jarid C. Buck
*C/2LT Brandon S. Grone
C/2LT Caitlyn S. McClelland
C/2LT Andrew S. Rico
C/2LT Kristopher S. Roos
C/2LT David J. Sumrall
C/2LT Christopher A. Wenz

OTF 01-01

"LET'S ROLL"

C/2LT Zachary R. J. Bahl
*C/2LT Robert W. Buckholtz
C/2LT Cary D. Crow
C/2LT Andrew D. Currie
C/2LT Adam M. Green
C/2LT Chris T. Gregory
C/2LT Troy Hodges, III
C/2LT Jason K. Jungeblut
C/2LT Justin L. Klosterman
C/2LT Aaron M. Moore
C/2LT Geoffrey K. Schultz
C/2LT Dominique D. Sowell
C/2LT Sophia V. Volz
C/2LT Brendan B. Washington
C/2LT Jonathan A. Block

OTF 00-01

"FOX THREE"

C/2LT Jason J. Bataglia
C/2LT James M. Bearup
C/2LT Steven K. Dorn
C/2LT Timothy J. Hayden
*C/2LT Humberto F. Nieves, Jr.
C/2LT Erik D. Swanson



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OTF 02-01

"CHECK SIX"

C/2LT Charles P. Arden
C/2LT James P. Berry
C/2LT Dan A. Bogert
C/2LT Kirill D. Corte
*C/2LT Travis J. Holdren
C/2LT Kyle D. Matwey
C/2LT Ashley N. Sykes
C/2LT Tyler L. Thompson
C/2LT Chantel A. Vega
C/2LT Daniel R. Wiener

OTF 03-02

"SPLASH BANDIT"

C/2LT Robert B. Berry
C/2LT Paige R. Birdwell
C/2LT Alex M. Chambers
C/2LT Bradley N. Coffey
C/2LT Isaac M. Flores
C/2LT Neil R. Gould
C/2LT James C. Jobski
C/2LT David P. Kultala
C/2LT Sara E. Raleigh
C/2LT Dan J. Serfilippi
C/2LT Shawn P. Simon
C/2LT Scott W. Thornhill
C/2LT A. Victoria Turrubiarres
C/2LT Jonathan A. Weber
*C/2LT Tyler R. Wilson
C/2LT Kayleigh R. Wright

OTF 03-01

"SPLASH ONE"

C/2LT Dane M. Balen
C/2LT Christopher J. Bartine
C/2LT Thomas A. DaVila
C/2LT Jason A. Muchow
C/2LT Christopher D. Shoemake
C/2LT David P. Silvester
*C/2LT Eric P. Straub
C/2LT Andrew P. Trog

OTF 04-01

"LOCK ON"

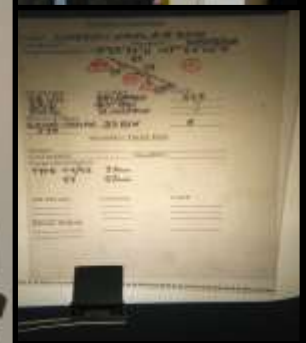
C/2LT Garrett A. Baker
C/2LT Cory W. Cutshall
C/2LT Zachary R. Felker
C/2LT Caleb A. Garrels
C/2LT Richard J. Hiltner
C/2LT Stephanie M. Neville
C/2LT Forrest E. Smith



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OTF 05-01

"HEATER'S HOT"

C/2LT Bryan E. Augustine
C/2LT Charles L. Bennett
C/2LT Derrick P. Hicks
C/2LT Andrea L. Issak
C/2LT Cameron L. West
*C/2LT Christopher M. Wilson

OTF 07-01

"SANDY'S INBOUND"

C/2LT Colin A. Barrett
C/2LT Lucas P. Bostdorff
C/2LT Anthony J. Carli
C/2LT Jay M. Hamman
C/2LT Erik P. Lozoya
C/2LT Alec J. Powers
C/2LT William M. Stanley

OTF 05-02

"FANG'S OUT"

C/2LT Heath M. Spence
*C/2LT Kimberly A. Twohig

OTF 07-02

"FOX ONE"

C/2LT Timothy M. Guerra
C/2LT Andrew W. Hahn
C/2LT Cameron C. Mosegard
C/2LT Richard M. Kaufman

OTF 06-01

"FOX TWO"

C/2LT Jerry R. Allen
C/2LT Daniel G. Benitez
*C/2LT Jeffre K. Wood

OTF 08-02

"FENCE CHECK"

C/2LT Michael O. Bedient
C/2LT Justin W. Bryan
C/2LT Nicholas K. Bryan
C/2LT Kamil W. Krupczynski
C/2LT Leah J. Lindsay
*C/2LT Steven C. Mercer
C/2LT Ariel M. Neville
C/2LT Kevin D. Torge

OTF 06-02

"TIGER'S ENGAGED"

C/2LT Roy M. Economides
C/2LT Eric L. Mitchell
*C/2LT John J. Stropko
C/2LT Andrew L. Werth

OTF 09-01

"CLEARED HOT"

C/2LT Brian M. Bills
C/2LT Jarod M. Haupt
C/2LT Chase O. Hellan
*C/2LT Kyle S. Richardson



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20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OTF FLIGHTS



OTF 10-01

"TALLY HO"

C/WO Blake R. Gaughn
C/WO Chad S. Hellan
C/WO Matthew R. Sergent

OTF 14-01

"PIPPER HOT"

C/WO Stephen M. Bosley
C/WO Nicholas A. McHatton
C/WO Sean M. Mendoza
C/WO Victor A. Mendoza
C/WO Matthew J. O'Neill

OTF 10-02

"MIG'S ENGAGED"

C/WO Robert M. Kelty
C/WO Dakota I. Martin
C/WO Alexandra A. Nachman
C/WO Brandon M. Sales

OTF 15-02

"SHACK"

C/2LT Gabriel J. Garza
*C/2LT Anna R. Mendenhall
C/2LT Katherina G. Sotomayor

OTF 11-01

"PADLOCKED"

C/WO Adam M. Collett
C/WO Omar E. Collett
C/WO Carlos C. Rangel

OTF 16-02

"NO JOY"

C/WO Christian M. Caraway
C/WO Javier Davilla
C/WO Mason R. Mogler
C/WO Robert D. Nagle
C/WO Jaden L. Ramsey
C/WO Austyn M. Skowron
C/WO Cassandra M. Terrazos
C/WO John T. Zha

OTF 12-01

"JOLLY INBOUND"

C/WO Augustine Favela
C/WO Joshua M. Rivers
C/WO Daniel L. Sloniger

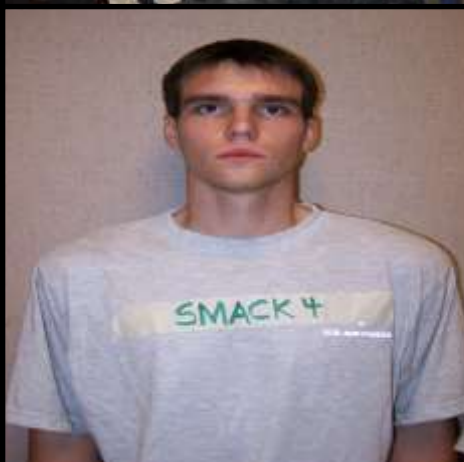
OTF 13-02

"BUG OUT"

C/WO Adam M. Carroll
C/WO Jeremiah E. Leynes
C/WO Christopher A. Robles



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20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OTF FLIGHTS



OTF 17-02

"GREEN'EM UP"

C/WO Tanner T. Bruce
C/WO Noah D. C. Caraway
C/WO Preston W. Eldridge
C/WO Robert K. Eldridge
C/WO Brendan M. Flanagan

OTF 18-02

"WHITE BANDIT"

C/WO Zachary D. Clark
C/WO Hunter J. Mantle
C/WO Trevin J. Purdue
C/WO Stella E. Ranger
C/WO Zachariah W. Street
C/WO Jacob L. Wunderle

OTF 18-01

"RED BANDIT "

C/WO Jared C. Hrimnak
C/WO John C. Seeders
C/WO Manuel Vasquez



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1st Solo
Robert William Nagle Jr.
Thursday 12 March 2020
CessNa N634ND



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