

# DACTYLS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY | UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

## DACTYLS STUDENT ORGANIZATION



*Dactyls Student Organization*

The Dactyls Student Organization members are very active both in the detachment and throughout the community. Over the course of this semester we have accomplished some incredible things and gotten to participate in both fun and challenging events that benefit us both as cadets and as wingmen.

Before the semester even started, we had several second-year cadets attending field training to learn about leadership. Then we got a running start into the semester with the CSU challenge course and Operation Ground Zero.

Shortly thereafter, we were able to witness this semester's change of command ceremony as the detachment's new wing staff was announced followed by a visit from guest speaker and former POW Robert Wideman for our annual POW/MIA Ceremony. Finally, we finished up the semester by helping Army ROTC with their field training exercises and holding some flight competitions at leadership laboratory.

## DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES & SUPERIOR PERFORMERS

*Written by Cadet Taylor Henderson*

This summer, AS200 and AS250 cadets from all over the country headed down to field training in Alabama and Mississippi to gain invaluable leadership experience and training to prepare them for a future in the United States Air Force. Field training is designed to test cadets' ability to function in a high-stress, simulated deployment environment and pushes them both to their mental and physical limits. After graduation, cadets come back as members of the Professional Officer Course and lead the underclassmen through the application of their learned leadership skills from field training

*Detachment 090 cadets at MAX 1*



This summer Detachment 090 had several distinguished graduates and superior performers at field training! This is an outstanding accomplishment as distinguished graduates are ranked the top 10% of their class and superior

performers are ranked in the top 20 % of their class. Congratulations to the following cadets on this achievement!

**DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES**  
**CADET NATHAN GRUENHAUPT**  
**CADET STEVEN GROENHEIM**  
**CADET MIGUEL RIOS**

**SUPERIOR PERFORMERS**  
**CADET DANIEL PASTWA**  
**CADET HANK HYDE**

### **CSU CHALLENGE COURSE**

*Written by Cadet Kojo Otoo*



*CSU Mountain Campus*

At 0450 on a cold morning in August a group of Detachment 090 cadets and cadre took a two-hour bus ride up to Colorado State University Mountain Campus for the opportunity to meet new cadets and learn how to interact with others as a part of a team. The obstacle course had a variety of both low and high obstacles with most of the lower obstacles being about how to properly establish leadership skills and communication among the team. Some of the higher obstacles challenged cadets even more as they were pushed to face their fears of heights and to rely on their wingmen to

help them accomplish the goals of the course.

As the day went on, new cadets became much more familiar with each other and began to act as a team while overcoming these obstacles. Both new and old cadets were able to face and potentially overcome fears while learning about how to operate as a team to effectively accomplish a mission.

### **OPERATION GROUND ZERO**

*Written by Cadet Taylor Latimer*

At the beginning of the semester, Detachment 090 hosted Operation Ground Zero at CSU to introduce freshmen cadets to ROTC.



*Drill and Ceremonies Station*

Throughout the afternoon flights moved through four stations that taught both the incoming and returning General Military Course cadets (GMC) about the various aspects of AFROTC. One of the stations taught the GMC about teamwork, and rules and regulations of Air Force games through a friendly game of capture the flag where they had to work together in order to achieve their goal. Another station taught the GMC basic customs and courtesies that are expected of them as cadets. These customs and courtesies include things like saluting and proper greeting techniques.

The third station taught cadets the basics of marching, which included the different type of formations as well as facing movements. The final station was knowledge based. The cadets worked within their flights to put together pieces of information related to Air Force history and knowledge. Overall, Operation Ground Zero was a huge success and the GMC were able to have fun while learning some of the fundamentals of AFROTC.

### **CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY**

*Written by Cadet Taylor Henderson*

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored military tradition dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century that represents the passing of authority of a unit from one commander to another. This ceremony symbolizes that a unit will never be without proper leadership and will have faith in and trust the new commander. During the AFROTC change of command ceremony, the detachment guidon is exchanged from previous cadet wing commander to the new cadet wing commander. The exchanging of the guidon symbolizes the exchanging of responsibility of the cadet wing.



Pictured is Cadet Colonel Parks, the Cadet Wing Commander for the Spring 2016 semester relinquishing command of Detachment 090 cadet wing while Cadet Colonel Hullings assumes responsibility of the cadet wing, they are accompanied by

Colonel Kip Turain, Professor of Aerospace Studies at Detachment 090 and the Wing Walker Honor Guard carrying the detachment guidon to be exchanged during the ceremony.

### **POW/ MIA CEREMONY**

*Written by Cadet Taylor Henderson*

This September, Detachment 090 had the pleasure of hosting distinguished guest speaker, Robert Wideman at our annual POW/MIA ceremony. This former prisoner of war was held captive for six years after his plane crashed over Vietnam and detachment 090 was fortunate enough to hear his story.

Each year, Detachment 090 organizes a ceremony that is followed by a 24-hour vigil to honor and recognize all those who are prisoners of war and/or missing in action. For the duration of this vigil a member of the Wing Walker Honor Guard stands post to guard the POW/MIA flag to remember those who cannot be here with us, but will never be forgotten.



Detachment 090 with Robert Wideman

## **ARMY FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE**

*Written by Cadet Greg Brantley*

At 0545 on a Saturday morning, a group of eight AFROTC cadets, joined by civilians met Army ROTC to prepare for the upcoming field exercise. Army ROTC annually holds this field training exercise to prepare Army for their upcoming career fields. Groups of cadets were sent to different “lanes” to accomplish the objectives of the day. Some of the lanes included activities such as providing non-threatening interactions with Army cadets, providing threatening interactions, acting as targets for an ambush and staging an execution of a civilian. All of these lanes were designed to train Army ROTC for eventual deployment situations and in learning how to interact with both friendly and unfriendly forces. Volunteers were provided with rubber dummy rifles, RPGs, and other weapons to fully replicate the deployed environment.

Before every rotation cadets discussed what was expected from the army cadets. From there, teams decided how to best act out the scenario to try and provide cadets with helpful training. Volunteers even threw in a few curveballs to keep the squad leaders on their toes and to help the lane graders evaluate the squad lead’s leadership skills.

## **FLIGHT COMPETITIONS**

*Written by Cadet Taylor Latimer*

During weekly leadership laboratory, Detachment 090 participated in flight competitions. Over the course of the afternoon, flights participated in different events and earned points to be used in determining the winner of Honor Flight. Each flight participated in three activities; one station tested the flights’ Air Force knowledge, the second rotation tested their ability to work together, and the third station tested flights’ marching abilities. The knowledge portion of the

afternoon involved flights competing head to head to answer questions and earning points for each correct answer. The second part of the flight completion was a group leadership problem; each team was given a stack of newspapers and had to figure out a way to make the tallest tower that could stand on its own. At the final station the flights played a game of “tanks”, a game in which



*Flight Drill Evaluation*

commanders use proper drill technique to march into other flights and avoid collisions with the other flight. This truly tested their marching abilities because for every move the flight executed incorrectly they were given a ten second penalty and the flight had to stop moving, giving the other flight enough time to run into them. This leadership laboratory tested all aspects of cadets’ knowledge and drill and ceremonies as well as challenged them to work as a team to earn points towards winning Honor Flight.

## **DETACHMENT 090 ALUMNI VISIT**

*Written by Cadet Christian Chavez*

On 7 October, nine Detachment 090 Alumni from the commissioning year 1977 were invited to come and enjoy lunch with current AFROTC 2016 cadets. Nine Alumni were able to attend and discuss their careers and time spent as Detachment 090 cadets.

Between the nine individuals, many Air Force Career fields were represented. Pilots,

maintenance officers, flight surgeons, health physicists, missiles, civil engineers, and space operations officers are just a few of the career fields that were represented at this alumni visit. Cadets of Detachment 90 were able to interact with the alumni, and seek career advice about the Air Force and life after AFROTC. Thank you to the following alumni for visiting Detachment 090:

*Bill Bauerie*  
*Stuart Boxenbaum*  
*Alan Hodgdon*  
*Don Jordan*  
*Chuck Lemoine*  
*Tom Lillie*  
*Mark Miller*  
*Joan Prebish*  
*David Robinson*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**EAGLES GAME | 2 NOVEMBER**

**MAJ GEN CATHERINE CHILTON'S VISIT**

**3 NOVEMBER**

**UNC MILITARY CHALLENGE**

**12 NOVEMBER**

**VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY**

**12 NOVEMBER**

**GMC TAKEOVER | 17 NOVEMBER**

**FALL BREAK | 19-27 NOVEMBER**

**DINING OUT | 3 DECEMBER**

**GUEST SPEAKER: COL MARK HYATT (RET)**

**FINALS WEEK | 12-16 DECEMBER**

**COMMISSIONING | 16 DECEMBER**

### DACTYLS SUPPORT

Dactyls members work very hard to maintain the balance between AFROTC, academics, physical fitness, and student involvement with clubs and other organizations. Many members also have jobs to help pay for the expenses of college. Neither the Air Force nor ROTC accept or solicit donations, so the Dactyl's Private Student Organization exists for the purpose of fundraising and providing financial assistance to dactyl members. This includes reducing the overall cost per dactyl member of Dining-In and Dining-Out. If you would like to show your support for the Dactyls Student Organization, detachment shirts and coins are available for \$15 and \$6 respectively.

### THANK YOU

This is just a snapshot of a few exciting things we have gotten to do with our semester so far and we have many more incredible things to come in the future that we look forward to sharing with our alumni.

Thank you for your continued support for Detachment 090!

*Very respectfully,*  
*Cadet Taylor Henderson,*  
*Cadet Wing Public Affairs Officer*

### CONTACT US!

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