

Alumni Newsletter

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
AFROTC DETACHMENT 270

Fall Semester 2025



Commander's Welcome and Semester Review

Det 270 alumni, current cadets, and family members:

It is my complete honor to take Command of Air Force ROTC Detachment 270 at Kansas State University. Although this our first time in Manhattan, KS, my family and I already bleed purple! We have felt at home from day one and am truly impressed with the cadets we have in the program.

I received my undergraduate degree from Missouri State University and a Masters from Texas A&M University while receiving a commission through their ROTC program and am a proud member of their Corps of Cadets. I have served 17 years in the Air Force as an acquisition and cyber officer. I believe in what I do and the nation I defend.

Detachment 270 also welcomed 3 new cadre members! Captain Aileen Lauer, who is a public affairs officer; Technical Sergeant Ben Rush, who joins us from maintenance; and Staff Sergeant Kendell Landers, our administrative airman. Our detachment would not have been able to operate this semester without these Airmen hitting the ground running.

The detachment started off the semester with New Cadet Orientation having an astounding 39 newly enrolled cadets in the Freshman class! During orientation, we welcomed distinguished guest, retired Col Chuck DeBellevue, the highest-scoring American flying ace of the Vietnam War.

Throughout this semester the cadets have held numerous morale events, including the execution of a Dining In event which is an Air Force tradition. The cadets also successfully hosted 15 high school students for Cadet For a Day, allowing the students to gain exposure to our program.

I am proud to join and serve at K-State. Great work to all of our cadets this semester and we look forward to seeing what the Spring semester brings!

Kristin Clinger, Lt Col, USAF
Commander, AFROTC
Detachment 270

Beyond the Classroom: Cadets in Action

Building Warfighters of Tomorrow

- Wargaming (AFEX)
- Land navigation & EOD training

Cadet Readiness

- AFROTC vs Army ROTC
- FDE's & GLP's

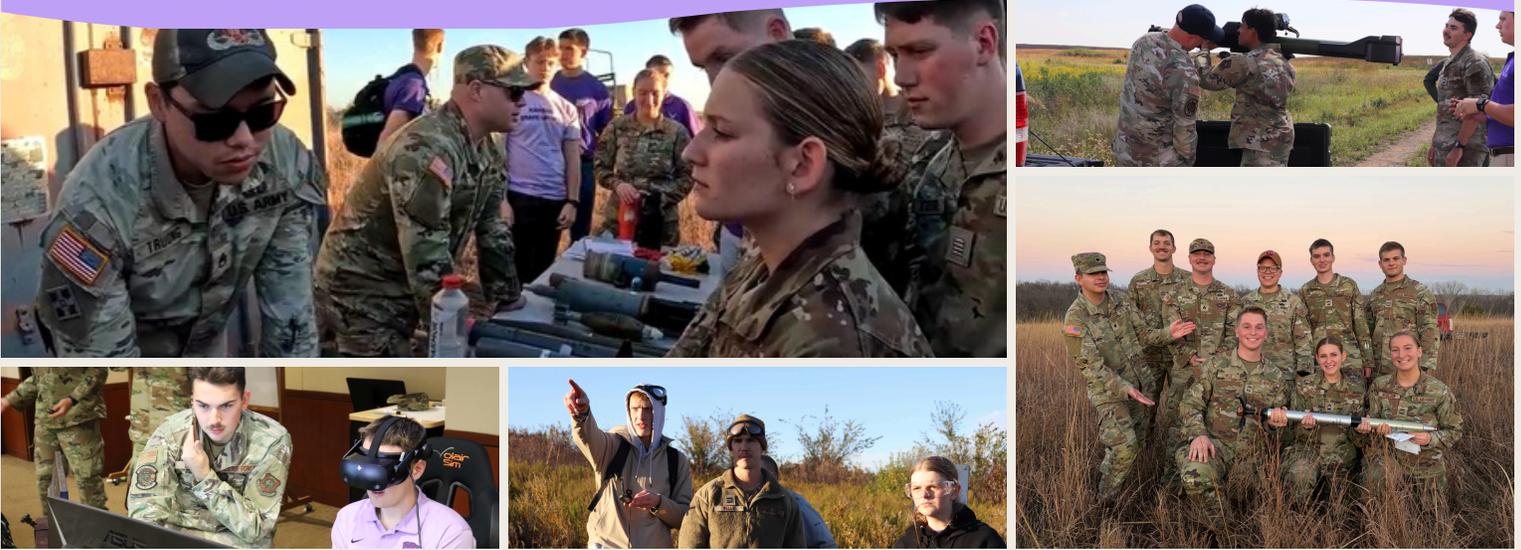
Strengthening Relationships

- New Cadet Orientation
- Cadet for a Day
- Dining In

Cadet Scholarship Spotlight



Building Warfighters of Tomorrow



Land Navigation

By Cadet Ian O'Rourke

Detachment 270 cadets recently dove into land navigation training—a key expeditionary skill for future Air Force officers. In Leadership Lab (LLAB) 9, officers and NCOs from the Army's "Iron Rangers" (1st Battalion, 16th Infantry) at Fort Riley visited KSU to teach the basics. They covered how to use a compass and protractor on military maps to effectively plot points. For LLAB 10, cadets put their training from LLAB 9 into practice out on Fort Riley's land navigation course. Working in buddy teams of three to four, cadets had just under two hours to find two or three points in challenging terrain. These LLAB's boosted cadet confidence and proficiency in land navigation and teamwork. A skill that they will need as future Air Force officers.



Air Force Employment Exercise (AFEX)

By Cadet Cade Clark

Cadets put their classroom knowledge and training to the test during AFEX, tackling realistic wartime scenarios in a high-stakes simulated environment. To succeed, cadets had to make critical decisions: selecting the right aircraft for each mission; optimizing limited personnel and resources in a rugged and remote theater of operations; and ensuring clear, rapid communication up and down the chain of command. As the exercise unfolded, unexpected "injects" threw curveballs into cadets plans, forcing them to adapt quickly under pressure. AFEX training culminated with cadets on the flight simulators, where the entire cadet wing gathered to watch their classmates battle it out in the virtual skies.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal

By Cadet Josh Pollock

During LLAB 12, our cadets engaged in critical hands-on IED/UXO training. Det 270 teamed up with the experts from the 630th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron on their EOD Combat Trail at Fort Riley. Cadets were trained on how to spot and report unexploded ordnance(s) and improvised explosive devices, all while keeping safety first. Cadets practiced moving in dismantled formations, applying the "5 C's" (confirm, clear, call, cordon, control) to identify suspicious items and call-in precise EOD 9-line reports. No matter what career field our future officers serve in, every Airman could face these threats in a deployed environment. This training gave cadets the knowledge and confidence to handle IED/UXO encounters.

Huge thanks to the 630th EOD team for an outstanding training!

Readiness



Flight Drill Evaluations

By Cadet Kaidnce Woellhof

Flight Drill Evaluations (FDE's) test the way cadets command a flight, execute precise drill movements, and focus on how well the commander can control their flight within a time constraint. This semester our AS100s were introduced to FDE's while the AS200s were tested on their ability to command their flight. Each AS200 received the opportunity to be evaluated, while the AS100s continued to learn drill movements. Immediately after each evaluation, the evaluator pulled the cadet aside for a one-on-one debrief, highlighting strengths and offering targeted advice on areas for improvement—a valuable opportunity for growth that helps build confident & capable leaders.



Group Leadership Project

By Cadet Trevor Houtz

Group Leadership Projects (GLPs) are immersive, hands-on exercises that challenge cadets' leadership style, delegation skills, and communication under fire. This semester, every AS200 sophomore seized the chance to take the helm, leading one of four dynamic scenarios: "Drone Dilemma," "Call Sign Cypher," "Evacuation Plan," or "River Crossing." Each GLP brought its own challenges—decoding the mission, maintaining team control, delegating tasks, and keeping communication crystal clear. By the end of our Leadership Lab our AS200s emerged stronger with an improved understanding of how to execute GLPs in high-stress environments.

Army vs. Air Force PT

By Cadet Aiden Huddleston

For the second consecutive semester in a row, Air Force ROTC claimed victory in the highly anticipated Army vs. Air Force PT competition.

Held at Memorial Stadium, the event followed a game-style format, with cadets from both branches battling it out in kickball, flag football, and ultimate frisbee. The Army cadets brought fierce competition every step of the way, but the Air Force cadets dug deep and fought their way to the top for another hard-earned win. This joint PT happens each semester to boost morale, build lasting friendships, and spark some friendly rivalry between the ROTC branches here at K-State. The event's smooth success was thanks to outstanding coordination and communication between both ROTC branches physical fitness officers.

Strengthening Relationships



New Cadet Orientation

By Cadet Henry Bash

On August 23, the Fall 2025 semester kicked off with Detachment 270's annual New Cadet Orientation, which proudly welcomed 35 new cadets and their families. These cadets had the opportunity to meet with their flight commanders, wing staff and Air Force cadre. During their orientation they were briefed on the semester's goals, unique AFROTC opportunities, and what it truly means to be part of Det 270. The fun continued at General Richard B. Myers Hall with a burger-burn and the K-State vs. Iowa State game playing on the big screen. Adding inspiration to the event, we were honored to host Vietnam veterans LTC Mike Sloniker and Col Chuck DeBellevue—two highly decorated heroes—who shared powerful stories and connected one-on-one with our cadets.

A perfect launch to the semester!



Cadet For A Day

By Cadet Sanchez

On November 6, 2025, Detachment 270 hosted the Fall semester Cadet for a Day (CFAD) recruiting event. CFAD allowed future K-State students to gain a glimpse into the life in an Air Force ROTC cadet. CFAD attendees dove into an action-packed day. The day included: a guided campus tour; time exploring how to use flight-simulators; insightful informational briefs and classroom observations at General Richard B. Myers Hall; and a casual meet-and-greet lunch at Kramer Dining Center. The day ended with hands-on war-gaming during Leadership Lab in the Leadership Studies building. CFAD left a lasting impression, inspiring the next generation to join our Wildcat Warrior family.

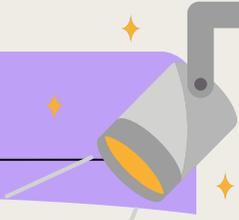
Dining In

By Cadet Henry Bash



During LLAB 6 cadets traveled to Tuttle Creek State Park to take part in Dining In for the conclusion of Morale Week. Dining In is an Air Force tradition that builds camaraderie and esprit de corps within the cadet wing. Cadets wore custom morale shirts, competed in sports such as volleyball and capture the flag before concluding the day with a cardboard boat race. During dinner, new cadets experienced their first grog (a ceremonial non-alcoholic mixed drink tradition). Dining In allows cadets to bond outside of professional military training while embracing Air Force customs and traditions. Overall, the event showcased the strong sense of teamwork and community within Det 270.

Cadet Scholarship Spotlight



Air Force ROTC offers the High School Scholarship Program (HSSP) and the In-College Scholarship Program (ICSP) to help cadets fund their education while preparing to commission as Air Force or Space Force officers. HSSP is awarded to qualified high school seniors before college, while ICSP is available to current college students already enrolled in or joining AFROTC. Both scholarships are competitive and based on academic performance, leadership potential, physical fitness, and the needs of the Air Force. This Fall we were able to award three cadets with scholarships.



“Receiving the HSSP scholarship was a sign to me that I do belong here. That the Air Force is where God wants me to be. Wherever the Air Force leads me, from Civil engineering to an array of other disciplines, I will never stop learning and growing—that’s what I look forward to the most.”

–Cadet Solei Disney
HSSP recipient

“Receiving this scholarship means I can graduate debt free, fulfilling one of my biggest college goals. I’m now eager to compete for a Space Force EA and put my cyber skills to work upon commissioning.”

–Cadet Grace Merry
ICSP recipient



“I was truly honored to be awarded the ICSP scholarship at the beginning of the semester. It has helped me and my family a lot with my college expenses and made a real difference in my education. This scholarship was something I worked hard for by improving my PFA, maintaining a strong GPA, and developing my leadership skills. Receiving it has motivated me to keep pushing myself and become the best cadet I can be. I’m excited for the years ahead and the opportunity to lead others as an officer in the United States Air Force.”

– Cadet Zachary Sanford
ICSP recipient

CONTACT INFORMATION

Webpage: www.k-state.edu/usaf/
Email: afrotc@ksu.edu
785-532-6600



FOR INFORMATION ON SUPPORTING THE DETACHMENT

Kansas State University Foundation
webpage: ksufoundation.org
833-448-3578