

Alumni Newsletter

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AFROTC DETACHMENT 270

Spring Semester 2026



Commander's Welcome and Semester Review

Det 270 alumni, current cadets, and family members:

As we conclude another successful year at K-State and as I round out my first year as commander of Detachment 270, I am proud to reflect on the accomplishments of our Wildcat Warriors. This semester demonstrated the dedication, resilience, and professionalism that define our ROTC program and prepare our future Air Force leaders for service to our nation.

A highlight of the semester was the commissioning of nine outstanding cadets as Second Lieutenants. Through years of rigorous academic study, leadership development, physical training, and practical military experience, these new officers have earned the privilege of leading America's Airmen. We congratulate each of them on this significant achievement and look forward to following their successes. We also had the honor of hosting Col Gary Clark, class of 1967 and Vietnam Vet, as our guest speaker. We sincerely appreciate the lasting impact he and his family have had on K-State through their dedication and support.

Throughout this semester, our cadets have excelled in both the classroom and planning events like our annual Field Training Exercise at Ft Riley and our Dining Out, where we were able to hand out over \$40K in scholarships for next year! Additionally, we are proud to announce Det 270 had 12 sophomores selected to receive a commission and attend field training at Maxwell AFB this summer.

Lastly, the cadre has put an emphasis on continuing to renovate the building, with a focus on our classrooms. We continue to vet opportunities for an update to our men's bathroom on the third floor.

Thank you to our cadets, cadre, university partners, alumni, and supporters for contributing to another outstanding semester. We look forward to building on this momentum in the months ahead.

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

Beyond the Classroom: Cadets in Action

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Building Warfighters of Tomorrow



Combat Tactics, Techniques & Procedures (FTX Prep)

Cadets spent two Leadership Laboratory (LLAB) sessions learning and practicing key combat and survival skills, including close quarters battles (CQB) tactics, battle drills, detainee search procedures, and TCCC. The training strengthened cadets' development as future warfighters and leaders, preparing them to apply tactical skills, exercise sound judgment, and operate effectively during the Spring 2026 FTX.



Warrior Run

During week 3, cadets participated in a Warrior Run that combined physical training with leadership development. The event marked an important milestone for AS100 cadets as they earned the privilege of wearing their OCPs. Alongside AS200 cadets, participants completed a series of workouts and runs between stations located at Kansas State University memorials, reflecting on the sacrifices of those who served before them. The Warrior Run reinforced the significance of the uniform and the responsibility cadets carry as future Air Force and Space Force officers.

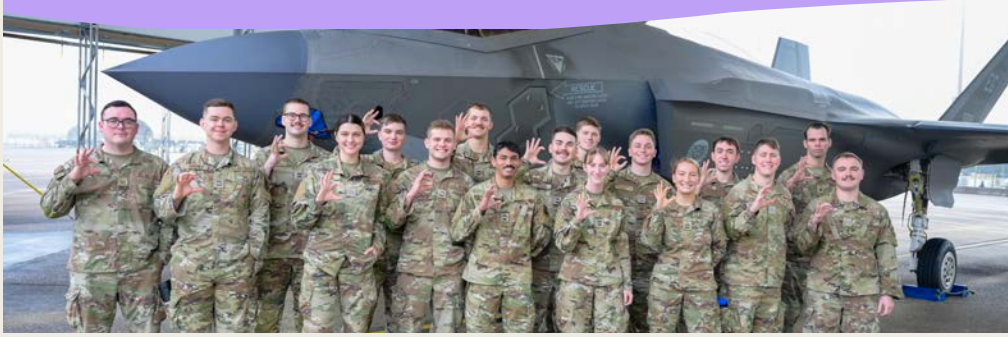


Field Training Exercise (FTX)

During Week 13, cadets put their skills to the test during a Field Training Exercise (FTX) at "Victory City," Fort Riley's Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training facility. At FTX cadets' leadership skills were put to the test, leading their flights through Situation Training Exercise (STX) lanes ranging from Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detection to High Value Target (HVT) extraction. These STX lanes put cadets in unfamiliar situations, completing required objectives while neutralizing Opposing Force (OPFOR) hostiles played by 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry "Iron Rangers." After rotating through three STX lanes, cadets consolidated into one squadron, utilizing the skills and techniques learned, to rescue captured Airmen in a decisive operation against a squad of OPFOR.



Readiness



Base Visits

Detachment 270 cadets had an outstanding year of immersion opportunities through visits to major Air Force installations across the country. During a trip to Florida, cadets visited Hurlburt Field, NAS Pensacola, Eglin AFB, and Tyndall AFB, exploring 11 units across Air Combat Command, Air Education and Training Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, and U.S. Northern Command. They met Airmen from a variety of career fields including intelligence, engineering, test and evaluation, and air control. A highlight for cadets was participating in Q&A sessions with company and field grade officers. Cadets also toured T-6, AC-130, and F-35 aircraft, providing an exciting look at operational and training missions.

Later in the semester, Detachment 270 joined cadets from Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma for a visit to McConnell Air Force Base and the 22nd Refueling Squadron. There, cadets toured KC-46 and KC-135 aircraft, gained firsthand insight into aerial refueling operations, and learned from active-duty Airmen and officers about leadership, teamwork, and the transition to active-duty service. Together, these visits strengthened professional connections across detachments and gave cadets valuable exposure to the diverse missions and people that make up today's Air Force.



Open Ranks Inspection

This Spring, cadets conducted an Open Ranks Inspection (ORI), a formal evaluation used to assess compliance with regulations, professionalism, and discipline of cadets. The ORI allows cadets the opportunity to demonstrate the leadership skills and knowledge of standards they have been training for throughout the semester.

During an ORI, cadets are evaluated on drill and ceremonies, uniform standards, customs and courtesies, knowledge of Air Force information, and professionalism. The ORI reinforces attention to detail, teamwork, and confidence under pressure while highlighting strengths and areas for improvement within the cadet wing.



Legacy of the Gold Bars

One of Detachment 270's most meaningful traditions is the passing of gold bars from one cadet to another. Each gold bar carries a unique meaning established by the cadet who created it, representing qualities, values, or experiences that are important to them. Any commissioning senior can start a new gold bar tradition as long as there is a purpose and meaning behind it.

Before commissioning, seniors pass their gold bars to cadets who they believe embody the qualities that each bar represents and who will continue its legacy within the detachment. As the bars are passed down from generation to generation of cadets, they serve as a reminder of the impact individuals have on the Wing and the responsibility to uphold the values that came before them.



Strengthening Relationships



Dining Out

On March 28, the Wildcat Warriors hosted their annual Dining Out, bringing together cadets, cadre, distinguished guests, alumni, and family members for one of the detachment's most valued traditions. Rooted in military heritage, the event fostered camaraderie, celebrated achievements, and reinforced the values of service and leadership. The evening featured time-honored customs including the saber arch for commissioning seniors, posting of the colors, formal toasts, and recognition of prisoners of war and those missing in action.

The event's guest speaker Lt Col Tysen "Tiny" Pina, USAF (Ret.), Department Head of Aviation at Kansas State Salina, shared lessons from his operational experience and encouraged cadets to pursue excellence as they enter the next stage of their careers.

The event also recognized outstanding cadet achievements through awards and scholarships honoring excellence in leadership, academics, and service. Blending professionalism with esprit de corps, traditions such as the grog ceremony added to the experience. Dining Out remains a cornerstone event that strengthens bonds while celebrating the dedication and accomplishments of the detachment.

We would like to thank all of the attendees, distinguished guest and sponsors for their support. We hope to see you next year!



K-State Salina LLAB

Sierra Flight welcomed the entire detachment to K-State Salina Aerospace and Technology campus, giving cadets from the Manhattan campus an inside look at the unique training, facilities, and opportunities available in Salina.

Through partnerships across the campus, cadets arranged facility tours, meetings with department leaders, and a special visit from instructors and students of the 8th Flying Training Squadron at Vance AFB. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a question-and-answer panel with AF pilots and student aviators. Beyond providing valuable exposure to aviation career paths, the event gave Sierra Flight cadets hands-on experience in planning, delegation, and teamwork while strengthening connections across the detachment.



Alumni Wisdom

Cadets heard from Col Tony DeJesus (Ret.), a Detachment 270 alum who commissioned in 1984. He flew the KC-135, served during Desert Storm, and later continued his career in the Kansas Air National Guard before retiring in 2014. The session provided cadets valuable perspective on leadership, career development, and the opportunities ahead as future Air Force officers.



Cadet Spotlight: Commissioning

On 15 May 2026 Air Force ROTC Detachment 270 held its 2026 Spring Commissioning Ceremony where 9 Kansas State University cadets were commissioned as officers into the United States Air Force. The guest speaker was Retired Colonel Gary Clark, a K-State AFROTC alumni who talked about the call to service and the life-long bond our cadets will have with each other. Our cadets followed a long tradition by taking the Oath of Office, pinning of the insignia, and the Silver Dollar Salute. As they accept their commissions, they join a proud lineage of Airmen who have answered the nation's call, ready to lead, ready to serve, and ready to uphold the highest traditions of the United States Air Force.



Congratulations to our new Second Lieutenant's

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FOR INFORMATION ON SUPPORTING THE DETACHMENT

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