Cadets tour Air Force bases during spring break

During the Indiana University spring break, the cadets of AFROTC Det 215 traveled west on an exciting trip to tour Scott and Whiteman Air Force bases. These base visits were especially valuable for many of us who weren’t familiar with base organization and personnel lifestyles.

During the day, we toured facilities and were briefed by active duty officers and other base personnel about daily activities and schedules. Specifically, we had the opportunity to tour a declassified underground nuclear missile launch facility and speak to the actual officer (now retired) who controlled the nuclear ordnance with his finger waiting ever so patiently on that red button.

While at Whiteman, cadets were also checked, cleared, and admitted into the B-2 systems hangar on the tarmac. We were allowed into the B-2 cockpit under orders not to take any interior pictures of the aircraft. While viewing this spectacular piece of airpower, cadets interviewed the actual mechanics who repair the B-2 weapon system. These young mechanics (who were our age) told us stories of replacing damaged aircraft parts as a result of missions supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After reluctantly leaving the B-2 hangar, we visited the air traffic control tower, where we were briefed on B-2 flight patterns and standard operations for any ATC component.

On our way back to IU, we stopped in St. Louis at the Boeing Museum for a tour and firsthand look at Boeing’s contributions to the growth of air power. Then it was on to Scott AFB for a look at the Tanker-Airlift Control Center and a briefing on the worldwide management of AMC assets.

In short, the trip was a great opportunity to spend spring break with good friends while getting motivated and educated about some of the great opportunities the Air Force has to offer.

— C/2nd Lt. Jonathan Schloesser

Operational Air Force: ‘Oh, and by the way, I got to fly in an F-15’

This summer I was given the opportunity to participate in the Operation Air Force professional development training. This consisted of spending three weeks at Tyndall AFB, Fla. I know what you are thinking, and yes! — I did have to leave wonderful Bloomington, Ind., in order to fly all the way down to Panama City, Fla., get paid, hang out with cool people, and experience almost every aspect of the greatest air force in the world! Oh, and by the way, I got to fly in an F-15.

The first week of the PDT consisted of touring almost every squadron in the wing. We toured the support side of the base during the first few days. This consisted of finance, chapel, contracting, security forces, communications, public affairs, professional education office, services, and many more. The tours allowed us to see how every career field supported the mission. The pilots wouldn’t get paid without the finance people, and nobody would be able to hang out at the rec center or workout at the gym without the civil engineers or the services people! And don’t forget about the security forces who keep everyone safe, or the education office where you can go to further your education.

The latter part of the week, we visited the fighter squadrons, air battle managers, air traffic controllers, operational support, and weather (I know, Cadet Cercone, weather!). We also got to check out the new F-22s! These parts of the wing directly carry out the mission.

The next two weeks, we had the chance to break up and shadow junior-grade officers and senior NCOs in different careers. I shadowed at the 325th Air Control Squadron, otherwise known as the Air Battle Managers. I was able to sit in on a simulation mission where the controller (continued on back page)
Pedal fast and
... turn left

I was 18; I had an AFROTC scholarship and a dream. A dream to fly jets? No. A dream of amazing academic success? Not so much. A dream to party the nights away at bars and fraternities? Not really for me. A dream to pedal fast and turn left? You bet!

That’s right; I came to IU for the Little 500 and cycling. The Little 500, “The World’s Greatest College Weekend,” is a 50.98-mile bike race on a quarter-mile cinder track. The race, founded in 1950 by Howdy Wilcox, attracts tens of thousands of spectators to IU every April. Furthermore, the Little 500 raises thousands of dollars for scholarships that go to working students.

When I came to IU, I had previous cycling experience and quickly gained a reputation as a rookie rider who was highly sought after. I was invited to join several independent and fraternity teams that had a great history and even greater funding from alumni; however, I wanted something more. I desired to build my own team from the ground up — not an easy task. Yet I was able to find four guys who wanted to ride and had the potential to become a strong team.

“Looking back, I have come to realize that the race is about more than just winning.”

— Lt. Tim Smith

Our first two years were a definite struggle. We had no coach and lost a rider so we were only a three-man team. A three-man team is at a tremendous disadvantage against four-man teams, not to mention strong four-man teams. Against these odds, we still were able to perform respectably, placing 18th in our first year and 15th in our sophomore year.

Coming into our third year in the race, our hopes were high for a great showing in the upcoming race. Our hopes were lifted even higher when we had a professional rider agree to coach our team and when we recruited a strong fourth rider. Going into the 2004 race, we knew we were strong; however, most of our competition thought we were overrated and would falter under the pressure. But we proved our critics wrong with a strong third-place showing. The 2004 race still leaves me slightly bitter, though, as a last-lap wreck took out us as well as three other lead teams, taking away potential Little 500 victory from us all.

This year’s race held a special place for all of us on the team as we were all seniors and four-year riders, making us some of the most experienced cyclists in the race. Unlike the year before, we were definitely well known and considered to be among the favorites to win the event. Emotions were high as we prepared for the race, knowing it would be our last, but, we were not nervous; we figured we were as good as we would ever be. The race went well for us throughout as we avoided some major early wrecks that took out several contendng teams. For the majority of the laps, it was a five-team race, and coming into the final 20 laps, we knew we had a good chance to win. Unfortunately, it wasn’t to be. A late tactical mistake on our part eventually cost us the victory, and we finished a respectable but disappointing fourth.

I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t unhappy that we didn’t win, but looking back I have come to realize that the race is about more than just winning. At first I though that was something only losers say, but I now understand. Looking back on the memories I have from training and racing, plus the friends that I have made, I wouldn’t trade any of it for anything.

I got more than just friends and memories from the race — a lot more. The race also gave me an amazing wife. Without the Little 500, I would have never met Lindsey Vannatta, who rode for sorority Delta Zeta. We met at a post-Little 500 party and haven’t been apart since, and hopefully never will be.

Riding will always be one of my passions, but as I put this particular chapter of my life behind me, Lindsey and I look forward to beginning our next adventure as an Air Force family.

— Lt. Tim Smith

Lt. Tim Smith, center, and Team Briscoe 2005

DET 215 AFROTC
Wild Aces at IU

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For membership or activity information, call (800) 824-3044 or e-mail iuaa@indiana.edu.

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Meet our cadre

Lt. Col. Lori Bass, professor of aerospace studies, joined Det 215 in summer 2004. She comes off three years in squadron command at Travis AFB, Calif., working C-5 and KC-10 aircraft maintenance. She is a core transporter who has worked all phases of air and ground transportation in TAC, SAC, MAC, HQ AFMC, and UTRANS.COM. Bass has a master’s degree in logistics management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. She is enjoying Bloomington with her husband, Marc, and daughters Katy and Sara.

Maj. Jim West, commandant of cadets and assistant professor of aerospace studies, joined Det 215 in summer 2003. West spent 10 years on active duty before transitioning to the Air Force Reserves and now works within AFROTC as an activated reservist on three-year orders. He has been an Air Force pilot for more than 15 years and has flown more than 3,500 hours. His major weapons system is the C-130 Hercules. West has a master’s degree in aerospace science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and an undergraduate degree from Auburn University. He thoroughly enjoys Bloomington and plans to stay here as long as he can with his wife, Tracy, and sons Jack, 4; Sam, 2; and Pete, who was born in May 2005.

Maj. Rick Weddle, unit admissions officer and assistant professor of aerospace studies, joined Det 215 in summer 2004. His most recent assignment was chief of special acquisitions with Defense Logistics Agency in Columbus, Ohio. He has also worked other acquisition assignments. He completed a tour of duty as a minuteman III missile launch officer. Weddle has a master’s degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Tech. Sgt. Christina Keesee, NCOIC of personnel, arrived at Det 215 in June 2003. She previously served at HQ Air Force Personnel Center, where she was NCOIC of F-16, F-15, A-10, B-1, B-2, B-52 rated officer assignments as well as serving as NCOIC of aircraft maintenance chief enlisted manager assignments. She is married to Michael, a retired Air Force master sergeant, and has two daughters, Samantha and Sara.

Staff Sgt. James MacIvor, NCOIC, information management, joined Det 215 in summer 2003. He came off a three-year tour as NCOIC, commander’s support staff/awards section, for the 721 Air Mobility Squadron, McGuire AFB, N.J. MacIvor has an associate degree in information management technology through the Community College of the Air Force.

Jackie Harding began working at IU in 2000. She worked for the School of Continuing Studies as a project manager in their marketing department. In May 2002, she moved to the Aerospace Studies Department/Air Force ROTC as the department secretary. She is the lone IU employee in this department. Harding has a bachelor’s degree in general studies from IU, with a minor in human development and family studies. She is a Bloomington native and enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren. Although not currently on an active case, she has volunteered as a CASA (court-appointed special advocate) in Greene County since 1996.

DeKemper enjoying retirement in Arizona

Since I retired from the Air Force last summer, life has changed dramatically. We moved to Prescott, Ariz., and bought a house on the Antelope Hills Golf Course. I’m still a lousy golfer, but the view is great. We bought a “fixer-upper” and spent five months renovating it before we finally moved our household goods in two days before Christmas. Not many wives would have put up with the mess for five months, but Sandy is a real trooper. I guess 21 years in the Air Force made her very flexible!

The past 10 months have been a real experience. I’ve always wanted to build or do a major renovation to a house. I have a lot more respect for drywallers and roofers now! I’m really enjoying being so close to my family again. Most of my family is only 90 minutes away, down in Phoenix, so seeing them is easy on the weekends. It’s also very easy to visit our daughter in Flagstaff. She’s studying to be a nurse at Northern Arizona University and has thoughts of becoming an Air Force nurse. Where do they get these ideas?

Now that the house and yard are just about done, I’ll probably be looking for full-time employment soon. I need to make a little money to send our other daughter to college and to pay for some golf lessons. Actually, I wouldn’t mind learning how to fly after all these years. Besides, everybody who finds out I’m retired Air Force seems to assume I already can. They always ask what I like to fly. I tell them, “Southwest, United, Delta … whoever has a sale that week.”

I know Prescott is a bit out of the way, but we love visitors. If you find yourself out this way, please let us know. It’s always great to see old friends. Go Hoosiers!

— Bill DeKemper
Former Professor of Aerospace Studies, IU

Bill DeKemper and his father-in-law, Dale Grabe, renovate the DeKempers’ kitchen.
Looking back:
Homecoming 2004


Welcome back! Lt. Matthew Ritenour, BA’03, visited Det 215 after completing pilot training at Columbus AFB, Miss. He is stationed at Fairchild AFB, Wash.

Looking ahead:
Homecoming 2005

Homecoming 2005 is Oct. 7–9 with the Hoosiers facing off against the University of Illinois Fighting Illini. The theme is “Come Alive in 2005”. Oct. 7 will be the date of our joint (Army, Air Force) ROTC picnic, beginning at 4 p.m. The parade begins at 5:30 p.m. and goes in front of our building at 814 E. Third St. Radio personalities from 97 WB will emcee the parade from our lawn. If you have never returned for a ROTC Homecoming, you are in for a treat. Contact us for more information at (800) IUB-ROTC.

Our guest of honor for Homecoming 2004 was Lt. Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr., BS’71. He is the vice commander PACAF, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and is a 1971 IU graduate.

Army ROTC Maj. Edward Schmidt, from right, and AFROTC cadet Richard Fancher visit with guests.
Commissioning 2005

May 2005 graduate, hometown, career field, base of assignment
- **Aaron P. Calhoon**, Connersville, Ind., undergraduate navigator training, Randolph AFB, San Antonio
- **Eric J. Cercone**, Buffalo, N.Y., meteorology, Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, Calif.
- **Steven W. Freeman**, Chevy Chase, Md., undergraduate pilot training, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Fla.
- **Silas W. Gassett**, Jacksonville, Fla., intelligence, Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, Texas
- **Alex Ippoliti**, St. Meinrad, Ind., intelligence, Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, Texas
- **Andrea M. Kern** (distinguished graduate), Bedford, Ind., educational delay to pursue a doctor of optometry degree before coming on active duty, Indiana University School of Optometry
- **Mitchell C. Mayes**, Avon, Ind., air battle management training, Tyndall AFB, Panama City, Fla.
- **Timothy G. Smith**, Signal Mountain, Tenn., undergraduate navigator training, Randolph AFB, San Antonio

August 2005 graduate, hometown, career field, base of assignment

Members of the Class of 2005 prepare to take the oath during their commissioning ceremony.
On April 9, 2005, 17 companies of the Pershing Rifle Society representing colleges from all over the United States met in Assembly Hall for a drill competition as part of the society’s annual national convention, hosted by IU this year.

The competition allowed the cadets to show off routines they perfected throughout the year. The IU team, known as Company A3, was composed of both Army and Air Force ROTC cadets. A3 took a handful of trophies, including first-place wins in the IDR knockout, exhibition individual, and regulation squads, as well as third place in the exhibition squad.

Congratulations, A3!

Guest of honor Col. Steven E. Wayne, Air Force ROTC commander, left, congratulates IU AFROTC Cadet Jonathan Pollock.

AFROTC scholarship recipient extends thanks

First of all, thank you to those who donated money for the Air Force ROTC Alumni Scholarship Fund in memory of Christopher Meadows, as well as those who contribute financially to our detachment. I know that I speak for all of the cadets in the wing when I say that we truly appreciate every contribution that comes in.

As for me, this scholarship was very much needed and is very much appreciated. I am supporting myself as a full-time student by working full time through two different jobs. I have been married for about a year and a half, and my wife is currently finishing up her degree. Occasionally, we struggle to make ends meet, so this scholarship is a blessing for her as well.

Even though I do not have any immediate family members in the military, I have always been drawn to it and had thought often about joining one of the branches. After researching the different programs that are offered, my wife and I decided that the Air Force would be the best branch for me to join for both of us. I joined the Air Force ROTC program in January 2004, and I am now interested in becoming a pilot or pursuing a career in contracting.

I can’t wait to graduate from IU and serve proudly in the Air Force. This scholarship will help me work toward finishing school and commissioning as a second lieutenant. Thank you very much for your contribution; it is greatly appreciated.

— Nicholas D. Arthur, C/3C AFROTC 215th Cadet Wing

2004 AFROTC alumni scholarship fund donors

- Hillard & Ruth Trubitt
- Robert & Louise Cox
- Marcus & Wilma Oliphant
- Fred & Barbara Franklin
- Ed & Linda Heath
- John & Jo Ann Miller

More than $2,500 was donated by various friends and family to the AFROTC Alumni Scholarship Fund as a memorial of John T. Winton in the form of a one-time scholarship presented to Cadet Schultz at the 2004 Awards Banquet.
Submitted in 2002

G. Weldon Johnson, BS'52, JD'57, was selected by his peers to be included in the 2003–04 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. At the time, he was one of only 1,880 lawyers to have been listed in the publication in its 20-year history. He has a law firm in Indianapolis.

Robert H. Frowick, BA’53, MA’57, a retired ambassador for the U.S. Department of State, is a visiting scholar at Stanford University's Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace. He is writing a book about his experiences as head of mission for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1995 to 1997. He writes, “I retired from the Senior Foreign Service in 1989 but have been repeatedly called back for challenging assignments in the Balkans. My final assignment in Washington was as deputy special assistant to the president and secretary of state for Dayton implementation.” He lives in Washington, D.C.

John H. Douglas, BS’58, LLB’65, JDSp’67, is an attorney for Williams & Douglas in Indianapolis.

Dennis M. Orr, BA’62, completed a term as president of the Association for the Management of Organization Design and is a consulting member for Orr Consulting Group. He lives in Golden, Colo.

Louis L. Roth, BS’62, a retired captain for US Airways, writes, “I am playing golf here in the ‘golf capital,’” Pinehurst, N.C.

Donald R. Wright, MA’68, PhD’76, received a Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Residential Fellowship for 2003. He is a distinguished teaching professor at the State University of New York at Cortland.

Michael P. Conti, BA’69, is an executive tech assistant in advanced vehicle development at the GM Design Center in Warren, Mich. He graduated from the Michigan Reserve Police Officer Academy at Schoolcraft College and volunteers as a reserve police officer in Canton Township, Mich.

Joseph S. Northrop, JD’74, retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve in October 2002 after 29 years of commissioned service. He was staff judge advocate at Grissom Air Reserve Base for many years. The Huntington, Ind., resident practices law with Mills Northrop & Goff.

Gregory A. Frushour, BS’78, was production chief for NATO Kosovo Forces from January to May 2002 and then joined the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific in San Diego as element director. He is president of Renaissance Manufacturing Co. in Ada, Mich.

Scott Simmonds, BA’81, was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and awarded a Meritorious Service Medal. He lives in Mandan, N.D.

David W. Koles, BS’92, OD’97, is a captain in the U.S. Air Force and is stationed at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal.

Karen M. Dayle-Horsley, BS’00, was promoted to first lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in June 2002. She is pursuing a master’s degree in public administration.

Submitted in 2003

James F. Schooley Sr., BA’53, was honored as a member of IU’s 1953 national-championship men’s basketball team on March 3, 2003. He and his wife, Mary, BS’53, live in Gaithersburg, Md.

Wayland Ray Hicks, BA’65, is chief executive officer of United Rentals, the largest equipment-rental company in North America. He previously served as the company’s vice chair and chief operating officer. He lives in Greenwich, Conn.

Zofia A. Plummer, BA’02, is in navigator training for the U.S. Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Submitted in 2004-05

In March 2005, Peter L. Obremseykey, BS’58, LLB’61, received a lifetime achievement award from the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association for his 44-year career. Recognized as one of the state’s leading personal-injury attorneys, he is a partner in Parr Richey Obremseykey & Morton and was named one of 50 “Super Lawyers” in Indiana in 2003 and 2004. He lives in Lebanon, Ind.

James W. Talbert, BA’63, PhD’77, retired in December 2003 after 34 years at the University of Evansville, where he was professor of Spanish and chair of the Department of Foreign Languages. He lives in Evansville, Ind., and can be reached at talbert65@msn.com.

Retired Col. Joseph W. Chan, BA’66, was appointed to the California Transportation Commission’s Technical Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. The Alameda, Calif., resident is also a member of Alameda County’s airport land-use commission.

Capt. Charles I. Sachs, BS’68, writes, “I moved to Palm Springs after 30 years in L.A. I am still writing, and I am returning to photography and Web work with a view of the snow-topped mountains.” He credits his role as a consultant for the film Raise the Titanic for his involvement in expeditions to the Titanic and in the IMAX film Titanic. He can be reached at onrs@earthlink.net.

Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr., BS’71, was named a Significant Sig by Sigma Chi Fraternity in 2004. One of the fraternity’s highest honors, the award recognizes alumni members whose achievements in their fields of endeavor have brought honor and prestige to Sigma Chi. He lives in Honolulu.

Katherine E. Roberts, BA’77, was promoted to brigadier general of the U.S. Air Force on July 1, 2004. Previously the vice director of space operations at U.S. Strategic Command, she is stationed at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts.

After 30 years of service, Lt. Col. Larry W. Hill, ACE’82, BA’82, retired from the U.S. Air Force. He enlisted in 1971 and, after completing IU’s AFROTC program, was commissioned second lieutenant in 1982. His career as an intelligence officer included tours of duty in Japan, Thailand, Korea, Greece, Texas, Florida, and Hawaii. He lives in Waipahu, Hawaii, with his wife, Chae, ’85, and can be reached at larrychae@yahoo.com.

Scott A. Hebble, BA’85, captains an MD-11 for United Parcel Service in Louisville, Ky. He lives in Sellersburg, Ind., with his wife, Jennifer, BS’85, and can be reached at hebble9782@aol.com.

Rob Schutt, BA’87, was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He is currently stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois as a communications officer.

Lt. Jill (Roszkowski) O’Brien, BA’01, married Lt. Morgan O’Brien in Covington, Ky., on July 10, 2004. They are stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, where she is an acquisitions officer for the Aeronautical Systems Center and he is a public affairs officer for the Air Force Research Laboratory.

Remember to vote!
Ballots for the IU alumni trustee election were mailed to graduates in May and must be returned by the end of June. Visit www.alumni.indiana.edu/magazine for more information.
was controlling about nine aircraft and a tanker. He told every plane when and where to go. I also got to watch a live mission where they controlled four F-15s that were being attacked by more F-15s. This gave me a great insight on what I will be doing when I am commissioned.

I also spent a few days shadowing in the 1st Aircraft Maintenance Unit. I was able to attend a group stand-up meeting and a unit meeting and help with a launch of an F-15. I was also given the opportunity to ride in an F-15! We flew a “one on one” mission where our jet was on defense and the other on offense. I will never forget the feel of pulling 8½ Gs, going about 500 miles per hour, having to fight to breathe, or the most beautiful scenery I have ever seen. I think that is all I need to say about that! AIR POWER!

Even though this PDT was a lot of work and somewhat tiring, it was also one of the best experiences of my life. I learned how a wing functions as a whole and how every part is critical to the mission. Overall, I would rate this program as excellent and recommend it to anyone who is unsure as to what career field they want to get into or anyone who wants to build a better understanding of how a U.S. Air Force wing operates.

— Cadet Mitchell Mayes

2004 PDTs

Rising Sophomore Program
Jonathan Bristow at Minot AFB, N.D., June 11–Aug. 7, 2004

Army Airborne Training
Steven Freeman at Fort Benning, Ga., June 17–July 4, 2004

Operational Air Force
Mitchell Mayes at Tyndall AFB, Fla., June 7–25, 2004
Timothy Smith at Shaw AFB, S.C., June 7–25, 2004

Global Engagement
Amanda Paul at Air Force Academy, Colo., June 25–July 6, 2004

ASSIST
Katie Starks at Keesler AFB, Miss., June 7–11, 2004

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