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**AFROTC
Detachment 280 Flying Jayhawk Wing**

Astrohawk

The Importance of Mentoring

By Capt Edmonds

Since I've been here I've noticed a lot of confusion when it comes to the cadet wing mentoring program. I've heard statements such as: "the mentor program doesn't work"; "this feels silly and awkward; and it's hard to accomplish all of the mentorship hours". So, I wanted to take some time to explain my thoughts on mentoring.

The Air Force definition of mentoring is: "Mentoring is a relationship in which a person with greater experience and wisdom guides another person to develop both personally and professionally." You can have multiple mentors giving you guidance on various areas of your life and career. As a matter of fact, you have had multiple mentors in your life but may not have realized it. For example, how or why

are you at KU? Many students were influenced by their parents, siblings, teachers, counselors, or coaches. That influence came through some form of mentoring as you were growing up. Talking to experienced individuals you know and trust, informally or formally, is mentorship.

The best place to look for a mentor is right in front of you. Look around the detachment. Is there an individual who you admire, respect, or trust? Someone who is in the position you want to be, or even the old guy/gal in the group who has a lot of experience? You can do it formally, and approach that individual and ask if they would consider being your mentor. Let them know why you selected them and what you hope to learn from the association. Or, you can do it informally
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Great Quote

The wise man in the storm prays to God, not for safety from danger, but for deliverance from fear.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Studying Abroad

By C/ Rogers,

Greetings from the, as of lately, snowy but usually rainy town of Leicester, England. For those of you who don't exactly know where Leicester is (I didn't either until I looked at a map) it is about 100 miles north of London. Leicester is around three times the size of Lawrence, but still has the college city atmosphere.

After the eight hour flight over the pond and the infamous jet lag wore off, my study abroad officially began. I flew into London the 11th of January

and then proceeded with a three day student orientation. I've seen some of the famous sites: Big Ben, Tower of London, Westminster Abby, London Bridge, Shakespeare Theatre, Tate Museum, and Abbey Road. It has taken awhile to get used to the British lingo as well as remembering to look the opposite way when crossing a street. Can't go wrong with the local cuisine which mainly consists of some type of potato, sausage, and beans. And yes, the fish and chips are excellent!

Classes began Monday, 26 January.

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(Continued Study Abroad)

Workloads and modules are quite similar to those at KU.

It is completely different being an international student and living outside of KU's atmosphere. Good, but different. Meeting students from all over the world has definitely been a highlight. It is also interesting to hear everybody's thoughts about America and Americans.

I have been fortunate enough to travel on a few weekend trips. Last weekend was North Wales and this weekend I went to Windsor Castle (Queen Elizabeth's residence in the summer). I also have a trip planned to Dublin, Ireland for St. Patrick's Day. The month of April is Easter Break over here, which is going to allow for some intense traveling in Europe.

If any of you are thinking about studying abroad, I would highly suggest checking it out. It is a great way to see what else is out there, travel places you have only seen on TV or read about, meet people from all over the world, and experience different cultures. Don't hesitate to contact me!



(Continued Mentoring) and pick their brain whenever you are around them. Ask questions. Don't put it off because you have nothing to lose.

Here is an example in cadet terms, first semester freshmen typically don't know what to expect in their first year of college. Senior cadets should be able to mentor you on how to succeed in college and in ROTC because they have been there done that. Freshmen through juniors should talk to the cadre about different Air Force career fields as much as possible, because we are your mentors (if you like it or not). If we don't have the answer, we'll get you an answer because your future career depends on it and we want you to be happy, motivated, impactful, career

By C/4c Mecadon

On an average Tuesday evening, we all share a few wonderful briefings, some time with our squadrons, and maybe even a little marching. So it is definitely exciting to report that on Tuesday, 3 February, a group of cadets instead shared a night of fun. There were about seven active cadets and a few other familiar faces that showed up at Snow Creek, Missouri for some skiing and snowboarding.

It was very quickly observed that everyone was welcome here, from experienced cadets who flew their skis and snowboards like F-22s, to new kids like me, who were more akin to bird excrement falling and splattering on the ground. As a part of an ongoing special, we were given a lift ticket and

officers. Seniors, as you prepare to go on active duty talk to the cadre about what you should expect or talk to your friends who are new second lieutenants. Either way, make sure you get the information before you graduate, so you can be successful at your first assignment.

In summary, mentoring is guidance in any area of your life. There should be more mentorship hours in the objectives to make sure everyone is vectored correctly and knows how to accomplish their goals. The mentor program does work, but it is incumbent on the mentoree to *want* to ask questions and/or receive the information given by experience, and in turn become effective mentors themselves. As an officer you will be in charge taking care of people; and yes, you will have to do mentoring because it's important to their personal and professional development. So practice now, while you are still in this program.

Face Plant

rental equipment for only five dollars after showing a military ID. Cadets were motivating each other and keeping the pace fast. I crashed more times than a drunk driver on a unicycle, but every time I fell

there was someone there when I got up who was willing to encourage me and help me fix whatever was wrong.

All in all it was an outstanding night for everyone, and it counted towards an extra PT. The satisfaction of seeing Mr. Hufford eat snow alone was worth the \$5 paid, and the experience is one I won't



soon forget. There may be another outing in the future, if there is I encourage anyone who may be interested to try it out. You won't regret it!

Word From the IG



By C/Lt Col Langley

Hello! My name is C/Lt Col Stephanie Langley and I am your Inspector General, or IG, for this semester. My job is to make sure all of you are adhering to standards, which mostly means making sure you're all looking good in your uniforms. Also, I am the one that you all come to if you have any problems or complaints while you're in the ROTC program. So if you ever don't like how something is running or somebody isn't treating you right, come find me! I'm here to help all of you.

I've got some goals and expectations for all of you that I'm hoping you can meet by the end of this semester. First of all, you've already noticed the weekly warrior knowledge questions that are asked at the beginning of LLAB. I'm expecting all of you (yes, even POC) to know those questions and be able to answer them correctly if I call on you. Secondly, those people who are called. I'm inspecting your uniforms, I want all of you to keep on your toes! You never know who I'm going to call on next.

We've got some exciting things planned for this semester, so I hope all of you enjoy it!

Sports!

By C/3c Krogmann

It's that time of the semester again - intramural sports! There are some great team sports starting up at the beginning of April. Registration for team kickball begins on 23 April. Unfortunately there is an entry fee for the teams but, regardless, it still should be a lot of fun.

(Continued Sports)

And let's not forget everyone's favorite sport, flag football!

The registration date opens up for flag football on 23 April and the entry fee is ten dollars. The detachment will not pay for any of these entry fees, it is up to the individual or the team playing.

If you would like to look at the



upcoming sports for the spring semester, just look at the list and dates on the unofficial board. If you are interested just sign up on the unofficial board in the TAR and I will help those who signed up to register. If you have any questions just e-mail me at nwkrogmann@yahoo.com or call at (785)-760-0609.



Congratulations!

By C/1st Lt Wood

A big congratulations to those cadets who received rated spots in February!

Cadets Bergstrom, Rogers, and Breth received pilot slots while Cadet Hobbs received a navigator slot.

They will be joining the ranks of many great new lieutenants upon graduation to become pilots and a navigator in the world's best Air Force.

I express the emotions of the Detachment in wishing them the very best of luck in getting through training. Represent the Flying Jayhawk Wing proudly in training and always display that Rock Chalk attitude!

Random Facts!

The hundred billionth crayon made by Crayola was Periwinkle Blue.

Crickets hear through their knees.

Mr. Rogers was an ordained minister.

Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

FLX—Saddle UP!

By C/Maj Amerine

Pack your boots, grab an MRE, down some water, fill your ammo pouch, and saddle up because it is time to go to war! On 18 April the KU Flying Jayhawk Wing and KSU Wildcat Wing are joining forces to conduct a unique Field Leadership Exercise.

The FLX will incorporate, small units tactics, and test the AS 200 cadets' leadership and brawn. Through challenges, attacks, and demanding scenarios, Wildcats and Jayhawks will find out together what it takes to succeed as 21st Century expeditionary airmen.

This semester's FLX will incorporate many new instruments to bring FLX more realism than ever before.

The first major change of this FLX is combining the two school's manpower to bring numbers never before seen at an FLX.

Secondly, the FLX will be held in an urban cluster training village at Fort Riley.

Lastly, the FLX will incorporate paintball guns and small team warfare that will test the cadet's warrior skills. Bring your guts and smarts 18 April to FLX and be prepared to learn and be tested like never before. Saddle Up!

Words of Advice From a 2d Lt

By 2d Lt Martin, KU class of 2008

The loud sound of two T-38 engines roared overhead as I approached the main gate to Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, TX. I knew from then on that I had finally arrived on active duty at my first duty station. After waiting around Lawrence for an extra six months it felt good to finally be doing what I had looked forward to for the past 4 years. Once I arrived we began in in-processing phase.

That is generally what you can look forward to doing during the first week or so on active duty. It's your basic stuff—like making sure the people at Finance know you're there so that you can get paid, and getting situated with a place to live either on or off base. Once I completed that very long week I received an assignment to work in the base Historian's Office. I never thought that I would actually use my history degree once I was in the Air Force, but I have been able to use the things I learned in school to help write the history for the entire

47th Flying Training Wing. Lieutenants who are awaiting pilot training and are in the same situation as me, have been making contributions throughout the base. For those of you selected for pilot training, you'll be able to contribute in the same or different roles while you're on casual status. My job has a direct impact on the wing's activities. I create PowerPoint briefings that are viewed by the base commander and his staff during their weekly meetings. I am using the same things taught to me by the Cadre back at Det 280, so make sure as cadets you remember what you learn while you're in ROTC.

As of right now there are five Jayhawks at Laughlin, 2d Lts Ryan Stanfill, Adam Jenkins, Garrett Kohl, Mike

Carrera (class of '07), and myself. With the exception of Lt Carrera (he recently graduated pilot training and will now be an instructor on the T-1), the rest of us are assigned to different causal jobs. Lt Stanfill is in the OSX which deals with the entire management of the 47th Operations Support Squadron. Lt Jenkins is in the base deployment office and he deals with anyone who is deploying from the base. Lt Kohl is in the Education Office where he deals with people continuing their educa-



tion. The roles we are assigned vary greatly. There are casual Lts assigned everywhere from being Executive Officers for the different group commanders to even being crew chiefs on the three different airframes here. You will get out of your job what you put into it. However, you must remember that it is active duty and they will expect you to be leaders from the moment you step on the base. The Command Chief reminds me of this every time I have the opportunity to interact with him.

As Lts in the Air Force, no matter what your job or specialty is, you will have the opportunity to make the best of your situation. You could easily find yourself in staff meetings where O-5s and O-6s are

asking for your advice because you are the specialist in your certain field. You could also be put in situations where you are involved with putting together major projects or working with Senior NCOs. Don't worry though, if for some reason you forget some of the lessons you learned in ROTC you will have the opportunity to go to ASBC at Maxwell AFB AL to learn different leadership styles. Air and Space Base Course will be a good chance to interact with young officers from throughout the Air Force. You'll get to learn how different career fields work. Take a lot from these experiences and they will help give you the confidence to be a leader in the Air Force.

Wherever you get sent, get out and see what the area has to offer. Since arriving in Del Rio I have been to San Antonio, Austin, and even Acuna, Mexico. Why work hard if you can't play hard too? Get out and enjoy where ever you are at. Each base will have certain things that the services group will offer for your enjoyment.

I'll leave you with this; once you're on active duty it is going to be a whole new ball game. Everyone will be expecting you to be capable of handling leadership roles. If that scares you, don't worry. The lessons that you have learned while in Det 280 will stick with you much longer than you think. The cadre has done a good job of preparing cadets as future officers for the Air Force. It is up to you to do your best and remember what you were taught. Seize the moment and don't be afraid to make mistakes. As a 2d Lt you will be expected to make your fair share, but learn from them and grow as an officer. Do the best you can. I'm sure I'll see you at some random base somewhere in the world. Good luck!

Where to next, Lieutenant?

By Ret. Lt Col Hayes (Army)

Welcome to Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Joint Base Balad, Iraq is located in Northern Iraq approximately 68 kilometers North of Baghdad. JB Balad is one of the largest air bases in Iraq occupying 25 square kilometers and is protected by a 20 kilometers security perimeter.



The installation is the launching point for Air Force F-16 fighters, Army helicopters and unmanned aerial systems. JB Balad is in a very strategic location for

Air Force missions in support of combat operations into Baghdad. F-16s are close enough to Baghdad that by the time they put their gears up they are in the combat zone.

Joint Base Balad is home to The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, the most forward deployed Air Force Wing in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The wing's heritage is tied to the famous 332nd Fighter Group led by the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II. The 332nd AEW has pioneered modern warfare tactics using weapon systems including the F-16 Fighting Falcon, A-10 Thunderbolt II, C-130 Hercules, HH-60 PaveHawk and the MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle (put into action here 13 Feb 2009) to support the joint war-fighter.

"As far as getting a new aircraft, it's not very often in the Predator community you are launching a brand-new plane that's never been flown operationally before," said Lt Col Debra Lee, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance and Attack Squadron commander. "The one we received today only had four hours on it,



which includes testing time back in the United States."

On a monthly basis, the wing's logistics readiness experts process more than 950 cargo aircraft, 12,000 tons of cargo and 19,000 passengers, making it the busiest aerial port operation in the Department of Defense. In terms of aircraft movements, the 332nd AEW is responsible for the busiest single runway operation in the DoD.

For more on the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing visit; <http://www.balad.afcent.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=4032>

Ropes Course

By C/3c Welliver & C/4c Cain

On Saturday, 7 February 2009 the entire detachment endured the various rope challenges led by the FTP cadets at KU's Adams Rope Course. The objective was to successfully complete the missions at hand while preparing cadets for Field Training and evaluating their leadership skills. Each challenge was different in itself and offered a positive learning experience for veteran and rookie cadets alike. Some of the POC cadets participated, others filled out Leadership Competency Evaluations (LCE) on the FTP cadets. The main focus was put on the FTP cadets to be leaders and use the six basic steps to problem solving. For example, one obstacle was to get all of your cadets through the falling rock wall (bungee cords) before it caves in, but

the course leaders would add in assorted misfortunes to enhance the intensity.



The day went fairly well for the FTP cadets, and truly tested some of their limits, but the AS 100 class on the other hand did not feel like they had as much involvement. Some were given the chance to step up and most of them succeeded.

Other cadets felt unassociated and that they were never given an important job.

These criticisms were quickly countered by a POC who stated that sometimes you have to take whatever job you are given, do it well, and that is your way of contributing to the bigger picture. This leads to a good point, being a good follower is just as important as being a good leader. This was exemplified by the fact that each course was increasingly more cohesive, we were able to work more fluidly due to better communication.

Overall the Ropes Course proved to be a good leadership activity and a fun substitute for Leadership Laboratory. It was obvious that the cadets benefited from it, learned new skills, and applied them while at the course. The activities also brought together the cadets to form tighter bonds and use each others' strengths and potential.