

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The Alumni Newsletter is an unofficial news bulletin published in the interest of the Baylor AFROTC Alumni Association. Contents of this newsletter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the US Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, or Baylor University.

Department of Aerospace Studies

Lt Col Ken Sterling
Detachment Commander

Capt Ken Herlacher
Education Officer

Capt Matt Renner
Operations Flight Commander

Capt Athina Teicher
Recruiting Officer

TSgt Giovanna Tapley
Detachment NCOIC

TSgt Hunter Wellington
Enlisted Instructor

SSgt Carlton Lewis
Administration NCOIC

Mrs. Roberta Shipp
Office Manager

Mrs. Lori Burris
Uniform Custodian

afrotc@baylor.edu

COMMANDER'S UPDATE

Fall 2023 marked another busy and challenging semester here at Baylor/Detachment 810. Following our return from the summer and associated field training TDYs, both cadre and cadet leadership jumped into action introducing a new physical training paradigm. Leveraging Performance Psychology tenets and Baylor's Campus Fitness team, the cadet wing embarked on an entirely new fitness journey, which resulted in dramatic improvements. Other events throughout the semester included attending a Special Warfare interest trip to JBSA San Antonio and a multi-Detachment trip to the F-35 production plant, executing a first-ever run-clinic during LLAB, Air Force Combatives for PT, participating and leading Baylor's homecoming parade, and enjoying Baylor's Ropes course. This semester, we are executing three base visits (Altus, Goodfellow, and Randolph/JBSA) and L3/Big Safari visit here in Waco, participating in Texas A&M's Student Conference on National Affairs, attending a one day Field Training prep exercise, and hosting the annual Texas Games competition for all Texas Air Force ROTC detachments. On the Cadre side of the house, we welcomed our first 8B3 Enlisted Instructor, TSgt Wellington, and are preparing to say good-bye to Capt Herlacher and Teicher and TSgt Tapley as they prepre to PCS. In terms of performance, the Cadet wing continues to lead by example. Our rankings amongst all SWR Detachments are as follows: Field Training Performance #1/36, Grade Point Average #2/36, Physical Fitness scores #10/36. The Detachment 810 legacy is alive and well! -Lt Col Sterling

AY 2023-2024 CADRE AND STAFF



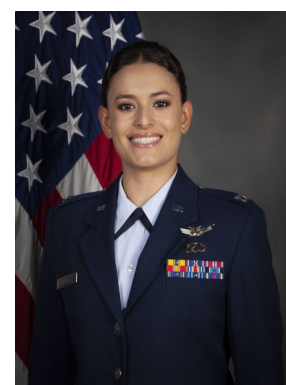
Lt Col Sterling



Capt Herlacher



Capt Renner



Capt Teicher



TSgt Tapley



SSgt Lewis



TSgt Wellington



Mrs. Shipp



Mrs. Burris

AVIATION RELATED NEWS

Last semester, we upgraded our flight simulator using Baylor’s Capital Improvement request process (similar to the Air Force’s End of Year funds). Our new flight simulator lab features two simulators, both of which will feature full virtual reality and network simulation in the near future. Expect further updates on this effort as the Bear Force leads the region in instituting Det vs Det network dogfights to enhance Pilot aspirations and support both recruitment and retention efforts.

As always, if you are able to help coordinate an orientation flight or want to help create a flight simulator training curriculum, please contact the detachment at afrotc@baylor.edu.



CADRE ACCOLADES

2023 Cadre Awards:

Qtr	Individual	Award	Award Level
1st Qtr	Maj Tidwell	FGO	SWR / ROTC / Holm Center
	Capt Teicher	Officer Evaluator	SWR
2nd Qtr	Capt Herlacher	Officer Instructor	SWR / ROTC
	Capt Teicher	Officer Evaluator	SWR / ROTC
3rd Qtr	Capt Teicher	Officer Evaluator	SWR
	Det 810	Team	SWR / ROTC
4th Qtr	Capt Herlacher	Officer Instructor	SWR / ROTC
	Capt Teicher	Officer Evaluator	SWR
Annual	Capt Herlacher	Officer Instructor	SWR
	Capt Teicher	Officer Evaluator	SWR
	Capt Teicher	CGO	SWR / ROTC / Holm Center
Functional	Capt Teicher	Recruiting Officer	SWR

PT PROGRAM CHANGES

As mentioned in the Commander’s Update, the Detachment embarked on a new Physical Fitness program this past semester, serving as one of the lead units to investigate Performance Psychology and its holistic benefits to cadets. The results have been quite impressive. In the span of two semesters, the Detachment improved its PT score in the Southwest Region, moving from #24/36 to #10/36 and notching an impressive ~93% PFA average score amongst all cadets. The Detachment is also investing in a miniature outdoor gym, which will further increase the value of our workouts and continue the Bear Force’s tradition of PT excellence.

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lori Burris, our resident Uniform Custodian extraordinaire, will have been with Detachment 810 for 10 years as of April 23. Lori’s connection to Baylor runs deep, as her husband, Simon, teaches in the Classics department and two of her children attend Baylor. Her connections to the military are equally substantial, as her father served in the Navy, her brother is a graduate from this very Detachment, and she was in JROTC in High School. Around the Detachment, she ensures our cadets are kept looking sharp while she manages a clothing inventory in excess of \$500K and volunteered to help tackle updating and maintaining the Detachment’s website. In addition to her work in the Detachment, she also helps run On Campus Mom, a volunteer organization that helps Baylor students connect with resources and provides a little bit of home while new students adjust to

DECEMBER COMMISSIONING & FALL SEMESTER WRAP UP



New Lieutenants Left to Right:

Matthew Johnson
Pilot
Location TBD

Dakota Gavin
Space Operations
Vandenberg SFB, CA

Mary Rourke
Pilot (ENJJPT)
Sheppard AFB, TX

Kaitlyn Vana
Pilot (HTN)
Education Delay -
Truman Fellow



C/Rourke receiving ENJJPT News!



C/Vana receiving HTN News!



Det 810 Cadets at SW Prep Course



Det 810 Leading 4 Det F-35 Visit



Lt Kahlig (Det 810 Alum) at Career Day



C/Waldo (WG/CC) at Ropes Course



GIVE LIGHT

Join with the greater Baylor community in supporting the Department of Aerospace Studies and/or Baylor.

You can support Baylor's Department of Aerospace Studies by donating to either the AFROTC Corps Fund or the Chaplain Major General Gerald E. Marsh AFROTC Alumni Scholarship Fund. The Corps fund directly supports Detachment activities, while the Marsh fund supports an endowed scholarship awarded each fall to deserving cadets.

GREETINGS, ALUMNI!

Det 810 alums, 2023 was a great year for support to our Air and Space Force ROTC program. Many of you joined us for the 75th Anniversary celebration; others of you answered the call to mentor graduating cadets into big blue. Several flyers stepped up to perform a Homecoming flyover, and still others of you participated in reviewing and awarding alumni scholarships at Homecoming. What is not seen, but has been felt, are the countless financial contributions that fund our support to Det 810. Regardless of how you engaged or contributed, THANK YOU!

In 2024, we anticipate running similar types of plays to undergird Det 810 activities. For example, we've already matched mentors for the upcoming grads, and we're beginning to plan events for Homecoming (October 25-26). As I write this, cadets are making plans to attend the Arnold Air Society National Conclave in San Diego. Lt Col Sterling has done his part by securing \$1.7K in additional funds from Baylor to support this trip. To that end, I call on our AAS alums to help fund \$2-3K worth of travel expense for 10 cadets to attend NATCON. I recall trips to New Orleans, Memphis, and Colorado Springs. Those were significant leadership development opportunities. Let's ensure our current AAS members can attend as well. Please give to the [AFROTC Corps Fund](#) and the cadre can arrange to facilitate funding of their travel.

Stay tuned to our [Det810 Baylor AFROTC Alumni](#) Facebook page for frequent news and updates. Also, make plans to attend Homecoming – anniversary classes (2019, 2014, 2009, 2004, 1999, 1994, 1989, etc.), we're looking at you. Plan a class gathering and come "home"!

HOMECOMING

The Detachment was honored to participate and lead Baylor's Homecoming parade last semester. Returning to tradition, graduating cadets had the freedom to engage with the crowd passing out candy, Air Force gear, and Baylor Pride. Following the parade, cadets participated in an informal open house at the Detachment and enjoyed homecoming festivities.

The day prior to the parade, the annual Marsh and Herbert Raynor scholarship boards convened at the Detachment. Following an update from the commander, the board interviewed eight cadets and awarded two \$5,000 scholarships. In addition to the annual board, the Detachment hosted a golf tournament for both Alumni and Air Force personnel stationed at nearby Fort Cavazos.



Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/baylorAFROTC>

CADET WING/CC CORNER

In the Spring 2024 semester, Detachment 810 will continue to be one of the leading AFROTC detachments in the nation, producing Air and Space Force Officers of unparalleled character. These future officers will be equipped with both the followership and leadership skills necessary to join an ever-changing Air Force taking on dynamic world challenges. The development of these future leaders will come from placing cadets in challenging, stressful group leadership problems and scenarios where they are forced to step up and take charge. Additionally, our Cadet Wing has taken on a new look this semester, modeling that of the new Wing A-Staff, implemented to introduce emerging Air Force concepts. For added growth and development we are incorporating assistant positions in the wing which are filled by underclassmen. Not only does this provide more responsibility and ownership, it also provides more upperclassmen mentorship opportunities. We are also adding monthly *Wisdom Wednesdays* where guest speakers discuss their leadership philosophies. Lastly, we have several base visits to Randolph, Altus, and Goodfellow to immerse young cadets in the realities of the Air Force.

As we prepare another sophomore class for Field Training, it is of the utmost importance that we continue instilling the Air Force Core Values in addition to others such as discipline, grit, and dedication. These will be at the center of all of our training and are critical for achieving mission success this semester and into the summer. We are constantly encouraging a culture of effective communication, 360 feedback, camaraderie, and the highest level of professionalism in all of our cadets, preparing them to be the next leaders of this great nation.



Cadet Carson Duncan

TEXAS GAMES

BATTLE OF THE BOMB!

Det 810 is proud to host this year's annual Texas Games. On March 23, 2024, all 10 Texas Air Force ROTC detachments have been invited to a day of friendly competition and camaraderie at Baylor! Events include Flag Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Indoor Volleyball, and several team challenges. Last year, the University of Texas both hosted the event and brought home the Bomb. As a result that bomb has been defaced with orange paint. This year, Det 810 aims to return the bomb to its true colors of Green and Gold.

If any Alumni are nearby and would like to participate as judges, contact the Detachment!

A special thanks goes to USAA who is generously sponsoring this event and providing lunch for the participants.



RAYNOR HEBERT

50+ YEARS OF SUPPORT

This year marks 58 years of support to the Detachment from this endowed fund! The Raynor L. Hebert Memorial Scholarship was founded in 1966 by the James Connally Angel Flight in memory of Lt Hebert. On May 13, 1964, 1st Lt Hebert died in an aircraft training accident after experiencing technical difficulties with his plane shortly after takeoff. Upon observing his proximity to a Las Vegas area elementary school, he chose not to eject until the last possible moment so he could continue fighting for control of his aircraft. Though the accident claimed both his life and that of four civilians on the ground, his decision to delay ejection ensured the safety of over 800 children in the elementary school.

Since AY 2000-2001, the scholarship has awarded more than \$22,000 dollars to 16 recipients for an average award of just over \$1,000. Baylor's revised AFROTC incentive scholarship program will now guarantee a minimum award value of \$5,000 for one scholarship per year from this fund dramatically increasing its impact for cadets!

This scholarship was made possible by generous contributions from past Alumni and can only grow with additional contributions from the next generation of Alumni. If you're able to support this effort, please consider donating to the endowed fund via the QR code on page 3.

Follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/baylorAFROTC>

Air Force ROTC Detachment 810
Alumni Relations
One Bear Place #97070
Waco, TX 76798-7070

We'd love to learn from your experiences and help expose our cadets to the Air and Space Force mission as early, and often, as possible. Please provide your updated contact information below, so we can maintain better communication with all of our alumni in the future.

Name: _____ Marsh Scholarship board member? Yes No

Address: _____ Willing to participate in a future career day? Yes No

Email: _____ Rank/Title: _____

Phone: _____ AFSC: _____

Class Year: _____ Duty Station: _____

Please consider a gift to the following funds of Baylor University that directly impacts the lives of cadets.

Chaplain Maj Gen Gerald E. Marsh Scholarship Endowment:	\$8.10	\$25	\$50	Other: _____
AFROTC Corps of Cadets Endowed Fund:	\$8.10	\$25	\$50	Other: _____
Capt Larry G. Pitts Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$8.10	\$25	\$50	Other: _____

Thank you for your continued support of our program and our future Air and Space Force leaders!

You can give electronically by visiting <https://www.baylor.edu/give>. In the search box, enter "Chaplain Maj Gen Gerald E. Marsh Scholarship" or "AFROTC Corps of Cadets Endowed Fund" or "Capt Larry G. Pitts Memorial Scholarship Fund" then select the donation link for the fund.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Corps of Cadets Endowment Fund - Mr. Jim Gooch (BU '61) completed funding for the Corps of Cadets Endowed Fund. This is a new self-sustaining non-scholarship fund that will give back to the cadets in perpetuity. We would like to grow this fund over time with the goal of ending cadet fundraisers. Please consider donating as this fund positively affects all Air Force ROTC cadets.

STAY ENGAGED

<https://www.baylor.edu/alumni/connect/index.php?id=978963>