

Cadet Jessica Wyble: UM Senior, Future Air Force Pilot, and Student Athlete Reflects on the Past While Looking Forward to Her Future

As I begin my senior year here at The U, I am realizing that my college life is coming to a close. It seems like yesterday that I was the one being yelled at to pick up the pennies and balls on the soccer team and looking like a punk in my new Air Force uniform that I had not yet figured out how to wear. But now I find myself putting the young freshmen in place as a captain on the soccer team and taking no time at all to slip on my flight uniform. I can see the end of the road for my soccer career that has lasted 16 years, beginning with playing for my Dad in 1st grade and ending in a D1 program with hopefully, a good stint in the NCAA tournament. Now I look forward to my future Air Force aviation career as my life takes a turn from jock parties to flight school.



Two summers ago, I along with roughly 400 other cadets from all over the country, had the distinct pleasure of spending 28 days in the balmy sticks of Alabama at Maxwell AFB for Field Training (FT). It was the best 28 days I would never want to have again... except I did this past summer as an instructor (CTA). What I learned going through FT as a cadet was mental discipline. The program has physical elements to it, but the way they truly test you is all in your head. As an instructor we learned how to artificially make an extremely stressful environment, but as a cadet

there seems to be nothing artificial about it at all. For 28 days you fail. Constantly. And one of the biggest things the cadre look for is how one responds to adversity. I will never forget being the cadet flight commander on the first morning, it's 0410, pitch black, I'm in front of my flight attempting to direct amongst a sea of other flights, with all 22 CTA's firing on all cylinders, and I'm supposed to take them to a track that I have no directions to. By 0435 we had moved 15 yards, had missed PT, had missed reveille, I had three 341s (on top of the 17 from the night before, yes the first night), my CTA had lost his voice on my face, and my FTO had informed me that in these first 19 hours of FT I had proven that I was worthless. I believed him. For the next 27 days things didn't get much better for me, but I can honestly say I learned more in that first morning by failing miserably, than I ever did from blending in at my Detachment. I took failing personally and made up for it with enthusiasm and determination to do better. I also found ways to have fun, secretly of course, and it's interesting how the top four performers in my flight were also the ones who had the best time. It's learning to make a heaven of hell that allowed me to stay motivated and keep a good attitude, which is contagious.

Cross -Town POC Cadet Andrew Sanchez

My name is Cadet Andrew Sanchez and I am an AS-300 cadet. I am majoring in Criminal Justice at Florida International University, one of the many cross-town universities served by the University of Miami Air Force ROTC program. My role with AFROTC this semester is to lead the recruiting efforts for Detachment 155.

The experiences I've had here at Detachment 155 are priceless. Regardless if you plan to commission for 4 years or 20 years, one must always be prepared to give their all. The training we receive on campus, in active duty, and the numerous experiences received will be carried with each us for the rest of our lives. I love my AFROTC family, and without them, I wouldn't have made it this far.



Cadet Wing Commander Jacqueline Camacho

I am a political science student at the University of Miami, and this semester I am the Cadet Wing Commander for Air Force ROTC Detachment 155. Three years ago I embarked on my journey to becoming an officer in the world's greatest Air Force and began developing my leadership and management abilities. During this time I also found myself wanting to better one of best experiences of my life, AFROTC, for future cadets. As I assumed the position of cadet wing commander, I knew I needed a centralized goal and vision for the cadet corps. I chose to exemplify this through the use of our cadet motto "*Nine cross-towns, one corps.*" Each one of us is at our core a student as well as cadet. Regardless of our background, school, or years until graduation, we all have one collective goal: to commission. This goal helps to unify us. My goal this semester is to guide the corps towards that unified path. Whether through Physical Training (PT), leadership lab, or esprit de corps events, each week we work towards becoming not only

GMC and POC cadets, or cadets from Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie flights, but rather *one AFROTC unit*. Through these actions and the professionalism we display each week, we create lifelong bonds of friendship and camaraderie that will ultimately help ensure our success as future Air Force leaders.

Cadet Joseph Boada, Public Affairs Officer

I entered the Air Force ROTC program with one thing on my mind, to be an officer of combat and a leader of justice. Before my journey of active duty begins, I'm taking a step back to evaluate what I have learned thus far from Detachment 155, experiences that will never be matched.

AFROTC has literally steered my life onto the road of success and prosperity. Of course there has been a few bumps along the way, but those bumps have only motivated me to do better. I have seen cadets come and go, some wash out from the program and some remain to carry on a tradition of honor and legacy of valor. We absorb what is called the core values, instilled into cadets to produce professional officers, ready to answer the call of duty. From field training to training the new generation of young officers, I can assure you there is nothing better than trying to change things on a small scale, working your way to the top ranks and positions, and finally making a mark to change our planet for the better. I was never told that this was for me. I entered the detachment without a clue as to what I was getting into, and now the quest has become clear to me: to win in air, space, and cyberspace, and to be part of the most advanced and best Air Force in the world. When I commission I will be ready to face any situation I encounter. The training I've received at Detachment 155 will come in handy and save lives one day in a real world mission. It all starts here. As the butterfly effect goes, even the smallest things can make a huge difference. Do not lose out on the opportunity to make a change. I know I'm not.

