

DETACHMENT 850 NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 1 | SPRING SEMESTER 2021

Fly High Mighty Skymasters!



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Letter from the Commander



This past year has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my Air Force career. The time, effort, energy and professionalism that everyone at Detachment 850 brings to the fight each and every day has completely blown me away! We truly are blessed with the most phenomenal cadre and cadets in the entire Air & Space Force ROTC enterprise!

Reflecting back on the 2020-2021 academic school year has brought me great joy! The resiliency, creativity and flexibility the cadets have displayed through a pandemic and Detachment relocation was nothing short of spectacular. Our goal going into the school year was to execute smartly to preserve the ability to remain in-person for all training within the program, and we were one of only a handful of Detachments across the nation to accomplish that goal! This was no small endeavor and certainly did not come without frequent obstacles.

Everyone at DET 850 navigated the cumbersome restrictions and ever-changing policies associated with COVID-19 with grace and dignity throughout. Through numerous distractions, frustrations, and what I'd label as unpredictable shenanigans by outside forces, the cadre and cadets faced every obstacle thrown our direction and quickly broke through them all! It is this type of can-do warrior attitude that brings me the most joy to see. This is the attitude our nation needs from its military, and this is the exact response that everyone at Detachment 850 brings to the table every day.

Furthermore, we tackled this challenge and broke through barriers never seen before at the University of Utah along with our six crosstown colleges. To start, we are graduating the largest class of officers ever through our Detachment. This year we have commissioned 18 of the finest Air & Space Force Officers ever seen. The efforts and attitudes displayed by these individuals has been humbling to watch; and I personally thank each and every one of them. They have enriched our lives, and more importantly, they are about to go out and enrich our nation.

We also welcomed one of the largest classes on record,

"Our future is bright, and the journey for how high we all can go is just getting started!"

with 44 new freshman cadets joining the program in the Fall, and we anticipate similar numbers next Fall as well. We also accomplished something never done before, by becoming the fittest AFROTC Detachment in the Nation with a 97.078% average on the Fitness Assessment test; which earned the Skyraiders the title of #1 of 145!

To summarize, I just want to say thank you! For the majority of my career, I've slipped the surly bonds above the mach and in aircraft capable of pulling 9+ G's on a moment's notice. As exciting and absolutely thrilling as that is, so too is the opportunity to come to work every day surrounded by the caliber of people we have associated with Detachment 850. Our future is bright, and the journey for how high we all can go is just getting started! I wish everyone a fruitful summer, and prepare yourself to get back it at in the Fall ready to work... because we have a title to defend as "Skyraiders continue to Lead the Way!"

Meet the Cadre



Lt. Col. Graham Stewart
Detachment Commander

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles... the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena.” —T. Roosevelt

“Life is short, live each day to the fullest. Routine becomes the enemy, stay away from it by constantly wanting to grow and push boundaries! Be a Warrior while maintaining balance in life between faith, family and friends. AMERICA!”



Maj. Gregory Lotz
Operations Flight Commander



Capt. Trevor Hone
Recruiting & Education Officer

“He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life.” —Muhammad Ali

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.” —R. Reagan



TSgt. Jacob Welcome
NCOIC Personnel



SSgt. Alex Tornero
NCOIC Administration

“There’s a humorous side to every situation. The challenge is to find it.”
—George Carlin

“Fail early, fail often, but always fail forward.” —John C. Maxwell

2d Lt. Megan Jorgensen
NW Region Gold Bar Recruiter



Ms. Natalie Richards-Gebbia
Detachment Administrator

“Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.” —Mark Twain

The View from the Hot Seat

“The people in this program are the finest that I have ever met or had the pleasure to work with.”



C/Col. Matthew Sartanowicz, Wing Commander: Spring 2021

In my four years as a cadet in AFROTC, I never thought that I would participate in a semester like Spring 2021, let alone be the cadet Wing Commander during such a time. This entire academic year created unique challenges not only for all students at the U, but especially for cadets in the AFROTC program. The type of training that we do to ensure cadets are high performers in all Air Force customs and military practices requires that we are in person — something that has been discouraged lately. In this environment, commanding our cadet wing and keeping morale high while also navigating pandemic-related restrictions was the biggest challenge. To keep cadets safe was my biggest priority, but to do that meant thinking outside the box to ensure that social distancing did not lead to a loss of esprit de corps for our Skyraiders.

Despite these challenges, Detachment 850's cadet Wing Staff ensured that all of our training objectives were not only met but were exceeded, and that is what I am most proud of. This semester my goal was to reinstall motivation and a desire to serve through training that had a lot of diversity and excitement. We made that happen. Through it all, I learned a lot about myself, being a leader, and empowering those around me. The people in this program are the finest that I have ever met or had the pleasure to work with. The fact that I get to continue to work for and alongside people just like these makes me extremely excited for the future and proud to serve in the greatest Air Force in the World.

“Every cadet with a position in the wing puts forth a colossal effort to keep our unit operating efficiently and effectively.”

The View from the Hot Seat



C/1st Lt. Juliette Parke, Former Wing Commander: Fall 2020

Serving as the Detachment Wing Commander no doubt provided a multitude of different learning experiences, and adding Covid-19 on top of normal duties gave me one level deeper of a look into the leadership learning curve! The biggest lesson for me to take away is that you really cannot please everyone all at once. Making decisions and planning training for 80+ cadets requires in-depth discussions amongst Wing Staff and Cadre, carefully weighing the cost-benefit of every option, then concluding the safest and most effective way to execute. These decisions do not always present themselves in a way that seem sensible to the rest of the cadet wing, and therefore, people will push back. That is okay! It was crucial to listen aggressively, seek to understand cadets' perspectives, and attempt to adapt based on their feedback. When it came down to it, myself, my Wing Staff, and the Cadre always knew we were making the right decisions and keeping everybody on track, both with Covid-19 mitigation as well as ROTC training.

Despite the pandemic posing new and unusual challenges for the cadet wing, Detachment 850 makes me proud in how we function as a cohesive unit, whether it is over Zoom or in person. From the 100's up to the 400's and 800's, every cadet with a position in the wing puts forth a colossal effort to keep our unit operating efficiently and effectively. This has always been the case, even since I arrived here in 2017. The inclusive and motivational environment that this detachment has fostered over the years is carried forward from class to class, which is something I carry an immense amount of pride for. I hope that the younger cadets are able to see how special Detachment 850 is and someday strive to also be Wing Commander of this great detachment!

Flight Commanders give their perspective



C/Capt. Jared Timmons
Flight Commander
Alpha Flight

The role of Flight Commander has taught me to constantly exude the qualities that I wish to bestow upon my Flight. Coming into this position, I was not certain about my leadership style, but I knew that I wanted to be approachable, respectable, and knowledgeable. As the semester went on, I further homed in on those attributes, and ensured that while I was the Commander of the Flight, I was also a mentor to them. I made myself available to the members of the Flight to talk one-on-one after every LLAB, and otherwise kept myself available to them so that we could have quality communication between myself and the GMC, and vice versa. This experience has helped me to become a better leader, and I hope that my efforts as Flight Commander have helped the GMC under me to become better future leaders.



C/Capt. Hunter Smart
Flight Commander
Bravo Flight

This semester I was blessed to have the opportunity to command the smallest flight I have ever seen (just six cadets)! While this brought plenty of challenges to their training, I am thrilled by how far they have come over the last 14 weeks, though they might not have appreciated the extra attention. We remain among the top AFROTC detachments in the nation, and I firmly believe that our success starts with the caliber of the young cadets that we bring into the program each year. This last year was no exception. I think we all learned a thing or two about flexibility, and I am very proud of our cadets!



C/Capt. Joshua Hull
Flight Commander
Charlie Flight

As a flight commander of potential future POC and officers, I have been able to help instill the principles of AFROTC through approachable leadership and a commitment to a high-quality training environment. This opportunity has helped me further develop my leadership ability and my understanding of the importance of communication, especially during these uncertain times. Charlie Flight has shown great improvement both in and outside the program, and I'm proud to have been their flight commander this semester.



C/Capt. Garrett Housley
Flight Commander
Delta Flight

One of the challenges during this unique year was creating a plan for the AS 300's that were not able to attend Field Training due to Covid Operations. We wanted these cadets to prepare for this summer's Field Training without feeling separated from their graduating class. We also wanted them to be treated as upperclassmen and give them the opportunity to instruct and mentor the underclassmen. In order to accomplish this goal we created Delta Flight. Instead of following the same training plan as other Flights, Delta Flight had their own training plan which had a mix of training and instructing other flights. What this led to was Delta Flight teaching the other cadets and then practicing what they just taught. I feel these cadets received a unique training opportunity that has prepared them to perform well at Field Training this summer.

GMC Retrospective

ALPHA FLIGHT



CADET CARTER SALTZGIVER

Det 850 is a great opportunity to be successful in life and to develop a teamwork mentality. It is an opportunity not only to help better myself, but to help others as well.



CADET ROBERT STEINKAMP

Det 850 has taught me what it means to be in a team, as well as self-discipline. Not just worrying about yourself, but properly holding others accountable too.

CADET KIARA LINDSEY

As a 100 and the last remaining female in my class, these past semesters have taught me resilience and growth. Finding confidence in myself and my wingmen has driven me to want to continue AFROTC with all my efforts and become an amazing officer.



CADET JACOB WILLOUGHBY

Joining DET 850 has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. After transferring in from a different detachment, DET 850 welcomed me with open arms and is preparing me better than I could've imagined.



BRAVO FLIGHT

CHARLIE FLIGHT



CADET COLBY LYNCH

The Skyraider Detachment to me is a breeding ground for excellence and developing leadership principles. Responsibility and Wingmanship have been at the center of my learning experience at Det 850 and I am always proud to work alongside the people here who give their full effort into becoming our national guardians.



CADET CAMERON VAIL

Being at DET 850 has been a great experience where I have gotten to know amazing people. I have learned a lot from outstanding cadre that work day and night to get us ready for Field Training.

Who are the “Skyraiders?”



Author
C/3rd Class
Skyler Little

If you take a walk through the University of Utah campus early in the morning on a Tuesday or Wednesday, echoing in the distance you may hear unified shouts of “Air Power,” military jodies, and loud exercise counts. Those distant shouts are coming from the cadets of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment 850, the Skyraiders. These young men and women aspire to become officers in the United States Air Force or Space Force. They are the legacy of Colonel Bernard F. Fisher.

The University of Utah Veterans Day Commemoration honors Colonel Fisher and gives an account of his deeds that led to him receiving the Medal of Honor and Detachment 850 being named in his honor. Colonel Fisher was a student of the University of Utah and a Detachment 850 cadet in the class of 1951. According to University of Utah News, Fisher did not graduate before commissioning and received his diploma in 2008, fifty-seven years after originally attending the university.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, Colonel (Major at the time) Fisher piloted an A1 Skyraider aircraft and served his country honorably. On March 10, 1966, he led a two-ship element of propeller-driven A1 Skyraiders to the A Shau Valley to support troops in combat. During the mission, Major D. W. Myers took enemy fire and crashed into an airfield. Because the nearest rescue helicopter was 30 minutes out, Fisher made the call to brave the odds and rescue his fellow airman. Fisher landed on the airstrip, where he then taxied to the location of Myers and loaded him into the empty seat of the A1 Skyraider. Despite taking damage from small arms fire, the Skyraider took off and both men returned safely.

Colonel Fisher's actions were nothing less than remarkable. For his brave endeavors, and for the A1 Skyraider which he flew, Fisher was awarded the Medal of Honor, and Detachment 850 was dubbed the "Skyraiders." Today the Skyraiders of Detachment 850 proudly display the patch of an A1 Skyraider propeller on their uniforms.

The Detachment 850 patch began as a design that showed off the mascot and colors of Detachment 850's host, the University of Utah. The patch shows the face of a Ute Native American against a background of a red and white checkered pattern. After Colonel Fisher, a Detachment 850 alumnus, received the Medal of Honor, the logo and patch were redesigned to better reflect the Skyraiders title. The new patch for the detachment was a mix of the old patch and the A1 Skyraider pilot patch. The pilot patch was labeled "Spad Driver" for the A1's Vietnam nickname, the Spad. The new logo/patch was made by combining elements from the Ute patch and the Spad Driver patch. The checkered background and colors were put onto the format of the Spad Driver patch and the new patch read "Skyraiders" instead of "Skyraider." Sky blue was also added to the top of the patch to represent the vast sky in which we fly.

Colonel Fisher passed away in August 2014, but his spirit, bravery, and legacy continues today in the hearts of those at Detachment 850.



Col. Bernard F. Fisher
DET 850 Graduate
Medal of Honor 1967



Original patch,
featuring a Ute brave
and Latin slogan



Redesigned patch,
reflecting Skyraider
name and propeller



Current patch,
combining Skyraider
and Latin elements

Detachment 850: Home of the fittest cadets in Air Force ROTC

It's official: the Skyraiders of DET 850 are the most physically fit group of cadets in Air Force ROTC — *nationwide!* With an average score of 97.078 on the Fall 2020 Fitness Assessment, we came in at #1 of 145 detachments across the country. Congratulations Skyraiders! **AMERICA!!**



“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”
- Aristotle



Photos on pages 9-10: The Skyriders attempt to outpace their record-winning FA scores then recover with chocolate milk, bananas, and some flag football.




Senior Sendoff

“No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his well-being, to risk his body, to risk his life in a great cause.”
- Theodore Roosevelt

It's a bittersweet time of year at Detachment 850 as we bid farewell to our commissioning seniors. These eighteen incredible men and women have committed countless hours to study, physical training, leadership, and mentoring throughout their college and AFROTC careers, and their hard work is about to pay off. Having received their bachelor's degrees from their respective universities, they will commission into the United States Air Force as Second Lieutenants on May 8, 2021. We wish them health, happiness, and success as they serve our nation and embark on the greatest adventure of their lives!



*Back row, left to right: Crofts, Nygren, Cox, Southwick, Sartanowicz, Guthery, McGowan, Peterson
Front row, left to right: Groesz (with Gary), Parke, Whitehead, Macavinta, Kuzmanovich (with Lopen),
Palmer, Liu, Sawyer, Beasley, Housley (with Ricky)*



Cadet Thomas Beasley received a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Utah and will be performing Air Battle Management at Tyndall AFB in Florida.

Cadet Craig Crofts received a Bachelor of Science in Geography and a Minor in Aerospace Studies from Weber State University and will be performing Air Battle Management at Tyndall AFB in Florida.

Cadet Blade Cox received a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Minor in Aerospace Studies from the University of Utah and will be working in Acquisitions and Contracting at Anderson AFB in Guam.

Cadet Jonathan Groesz received a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Utah and will be attending Pilot Training at Vance AFB in Oklahoma.

Cadet Andrew Guthery received a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the University of Utah and is awaiting his AFSC.

Cadet Garrett Housley received a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and a Minor in Aerospace Studies from Weber State University and will be attending Pilot Training at Vance AFB in Oklahoma.

Cadet Lucas Kuzmanovich received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Minors in Chemistry and Aerospace Studies from the University of Utah and has been assigned to Nuclear Operations at Vandenberg AFB in California while awaiting the results of his medical school applications.

Cadet Chance Liu received a Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management from Westminster College and will be working in Munitions and Maintenance at F.E. Warren AFB in Wyoming.

Cadet Alex Macavinta received a Bachelor of Science in Recreation from Weber State University and will be working in Munitions and Maintenance at Aviano AFB in Italy.

Cadet Patrick McGowan received a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from the University of Utah and will be performing Cyber Operations at Keesler AFB in Mississippi.

Cadet Anthony Nygren received a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from Weber State University and will be attending Pilot Training at Vance AFB in Oklahoma.

Cadet Dylan Palmer received a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion and Education with an Emphasis in Emergency Medical Services and a Minor in Aerospace Studies from the University of Utah and will be performing Airfield Operations at Hill AFB in Utah.

Cadet Juliette Parke received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Minor in Aerospace Studies from the University of Utah and is awaiting her AFSC.

Cadet Chase Peterson received a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and a Bachelor of Science in Criminology from the University of Utah and will be performing Cyber Operations at Keesler AFB in Mississippi.

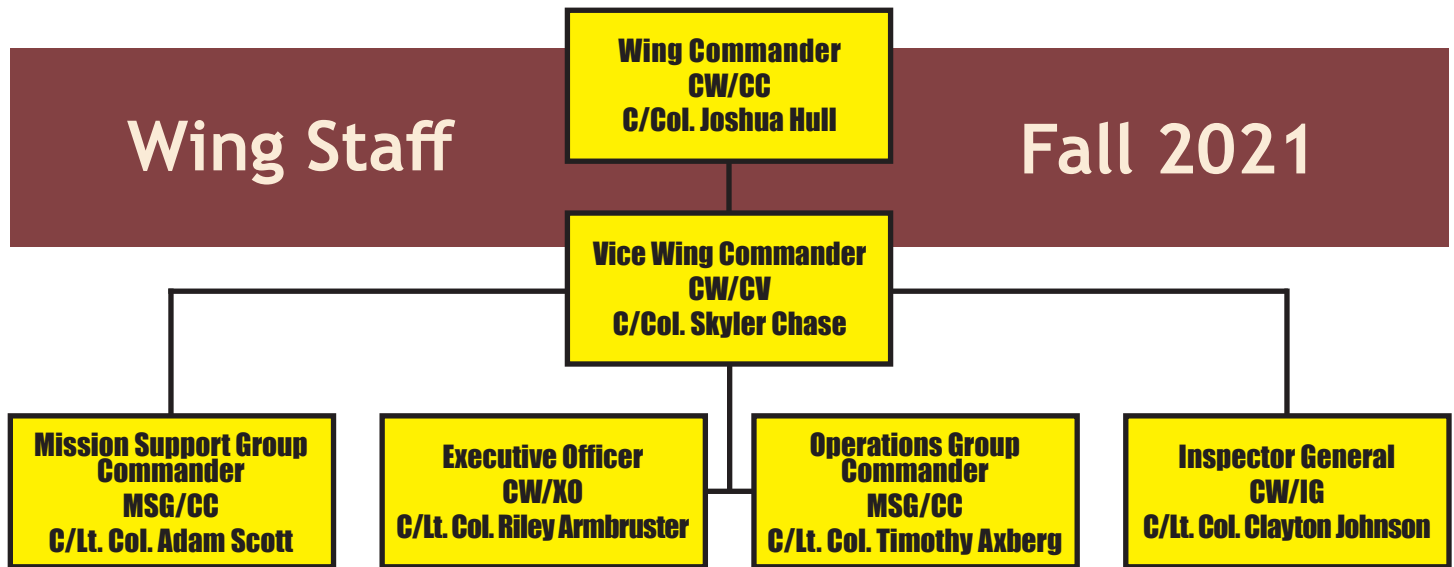
Cadet Matthew Sartanowicz received a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Utah and will be attending Pilot Training at Sheppard AFB in Texas.

Cadet Colin Sawyer received a Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Utah and will be attending Pilot Training at Columbus AFB in Mississippi.

Cadet Brock Southwick received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Aerospace Studies from the Weber State University and will be joining Security Forces at Holloman AFB in New Mexico.

Cadet Hailee Whitehead received a Bachelor of Science in Aviation and Flight Operations from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and will be performing Aircraft Maintenance at McGuire AFB in New Jersey.

Looking Ahead



A New Home for DET 850 | Summer 2022



The University of Utah has, at long last, found us a permanent home! Following a \$500k renovation of the second floor, we will be joining our Navy brethren in the Naval Science Building, pictured here with our very own Skyraider 1 in the foreground. The move is currently scheduled for Summer of 2022.



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 **AFROTC Det 850 Skyraiders**  **uofu_det850**



U.S. AIR FORCE

