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NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON AFROTC AFFAIRS REPORT

AAS C/Col Daniel Banas

Overview

The AFROTC Affairs Program, also known as the AFROTC Suggestion Program, is a national initiative, organized and executed by the Arnold Air Society National Vice Commander, that allows AFROTC cadets to provide suggestions regarding improvements to the AFROTC program. Any cadet is welcome to participate and have their voice heard on issues they feel hinder their ability to grow as leaders. Because of this program, changes such as wearing active duty awards on the uniform and removing the requirement to report parking tickets as civil involvements have been made.

86 suggestions were submitted between the period of September 2019 and April 2019. Each submission was subject to thorough review on the squadron, region, and national levels. On the recommendation of the Region Vice Commanders, 38 submissions were sent to the National Committee for final review.

The National Committee consisted of eleven Region Vice Commanders acting as voting members and the National Vice Commander acting as the Chairman. The Committee reviewed all submitted suggestions, and either approved or disapproved each to be added to the National Report. After review, nine submissions were approved to be added to National Report.

Below are the nine submissions, in no particular order, for AFROTC/HQ review. Each individual submission is up for approval or disapproval from AFROTC/HQ. If there are any comments, questions, or concerns, please contact AAS C/Col Daniel Banas at vice-commander@arnold-air.org or dsb210@scarletmail.rutgers.edu.

1. Implement Active Duty Air Force Height and Weight Standards in AFROTC

Problem:

The current AFROTC height and weight standards are stricter and more constricting than those in Active Duty Air Force. This causes cadets who are physically fit and perform well on the Physical Fitness Assessment, but who may be outside of the AFROTC height and weight requirements, to be negatively penalized.

Solution:

Adjust AFROTC height and weight standards to mirror those in Active Duty Air Force. If this is not possible, provide guidance to cadets regarding why the standards do not match those of Active Duty Air Force and the reasoning behind this.

2. Authorize the Wear of the Silver Wings Insignia on the AFROTC Cadet Uniform.

Problem:

The current AFI36-2903 AFROTCSUP prohibits the wear of the Silver Wings pin on the AFROTC uniform.

Solution:

Authorize AFROTC Cadets who are active members of Silver Wings to wear the Silver Wings pin on the AFROTC cadet uniform. The new version of the pin includes a clutch back design, allowing for the same professional look as other uniform devices. Wear of the Silver Wings pin would boost esprit de corps and pride for cadet members. The pin can be placed on the uniform in accordance with the standards set for the Arnold Air Society insignia.

3. Improve Quality, Navigation to, and Use of Computer Based Trainings (CBTs)

Problem:

In order to access CBTs required for Aerospace Studies classes, cadets must navigate through a confusing, unorganized, and outdated Holm Center website. Additionally, the CBTs themselves are outdated.

Solution:

Provide a more organized way to find and access the CBTs required for AFROTC classes. This can be accomplished through putting the CBTs directly into WINGs, or provide the CBTs to Professors of Aerospace Studies to send directly to their cadets.

4. Expand AFROTC PDT Credit to Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings Conclaves

Problem:

Many cadets attend Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings Region and National Conclaves each year. These conclaves provide incredible professional development opportunities through distinguished speakers, workshops, and interaction with cadets from across the country. Cadets that attend these do not get credit towards the PDT requirement.

Solution:

Allow Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings Conclaves to count towards the PDT requirement.

5. Personal Cost of Field Training

Problem:

Cadets are required to purchase many required items for Field Training at their own expense. This results in a financial burden on many cadets.

Solution:

Provide a program that assist cadets financially with procurement of required, personal expense items for Field Training.

6. Information Regarding Commissioning Directly into the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard

Problem:

Cadets lack information regarding directly commissioning into the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard.

Solution:

Create GMC/POC lessons that provide options and information about commissioning into the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard.

7. Use of AFROTC Scholarship for Summer and Winter Classes

Problem:

Cadets on scholarship are not able to use scholarship funds for summer and winter classes. In many cases, taking summer and winter classes allows cadets to spread out their required class loads, complete degree requirements, or take classes that may have conflicts during the regular semester.

Solution:

Allow scholarships to cover summer and winter classes.

8. Travel Reimbursement for Crosstown Cadets

Problem:

Crosstown cadets travel to and from their host university, either in personally owned vehicles or through mass transit, and undergo heavy financial burden to fund this travel.

Solution:

Provide travel reimbursement or financial assistance to crosstown cadets.

9. National Level Athletic Challenges/Competitions

Problem:

At the service academies, cadets compete in national level athletic challenges/competitions (e.g. Sandhurst Competition, Ranger Challenge). These challenges push cadets physically as they compete to represent their academic institution and branch of service. AFROTC lacks representation in these challenges/competitions as well as information for how cadet teams can participate.

Solution:

Sponsor fitness challenge teams across AFROTC and/or provide information to cadets about how to become involved in these challenges.