

Temecula Valley Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps CA-933

Mighty Flying Bears

# NEWSLETTER

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December 7, 2020



## Introduction

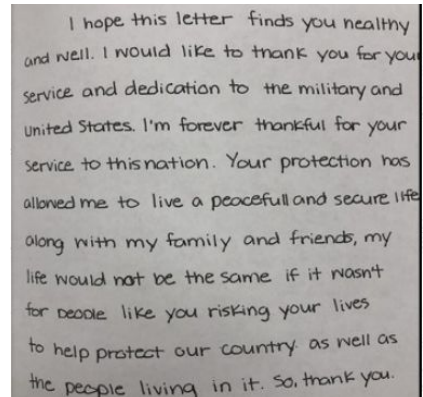
Welcome to the Mighty Flying Bears Newsletter! Our mission is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community. In other words, we are building better citizens of America. Our goals are to instill in cadets: values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment.

# October Recap

By Cadet Alexis Pottorf

October held many important events and opportunities. The new flight commanders and flight sergeants completed Airman Leadership School, which was run by our very own C/CMSgt Daniel Rueda and C/SSgt Hannah Rosario.

In addition to the first completed ALS rotation of this school year, our corps was given the opportunity by the VSSN organization to thank Veterans for their service and to help them through these difficult times. Our corps were able to collect 243 letters and 10 gift bags for our Veterans!



*A Letter written by a cadet for VSSN*



*MSgt. Knight with VSSN donations*

We also, thanks to C/1st Lt. Jayvion Campbell, had our first Promotion test of the Year! Multiple cadets passed and were able to rank up! The distance learning Promotion tests have been a success.

We also recognized C/SSgt Hannah Rosario as the first Cadet of the Month for this school year! C/SSgt Rosario is willing to go above and beyond in order to help the corps and her fellow cadets to success! Congratulations!

In addition, we had another successful retention event led by C/CMSgt Daniel Rueda! There, cadets were able to connect with each other on another Among Us event!



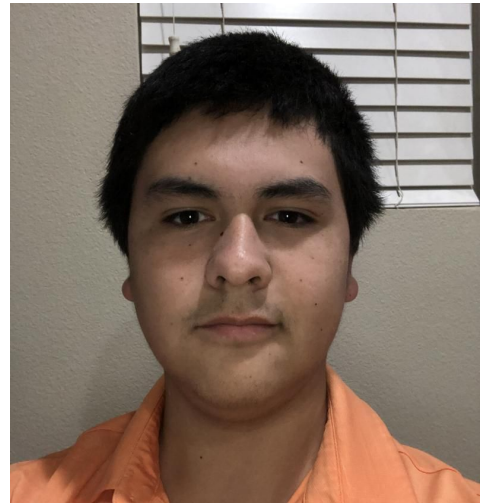
In conclusion, October was another successful and eventful month. Here's what happened in November!

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# Cadet of the Month

By Cadet Daniel Rueda

As with every month, one of our cadets has received the Cadet of the Month award. As previously mentioned, this award is given to the cadet who has demonstrated the utmost initiative, dedication, and outright exemplary leadership. And for this month, the award was given to Delta's Flight Sergeant C/Senior Airman Joseph Burlinson! I took the liberty to interview C/Burlinson's Flight Commander, C/Senior Master Sergeant Enzo Custodio with some questions about C/Burlinson's work ethic and why he deserves Cadet of the Month.



*C/SrA Joseph Burlinson*

C/Rueda: *“What made you recommend Cadet Burlinson for Cadet of the Month?”*

C/Custodio: “It was strictly cadet Burlinson's drive and work ethic that he has. 2 weeks before I had to submit a cadet of the month submission, Cadet Burlinson was put in a circumstance where he had to take the position of flight sergeant but when he did not hesitate and got straight to it and his work was efficient and up to date”

C/Rueda: *“How did you feel when you heard the news that Cadet Burlinson got Cadet of the Month?”*

C/Custodio: “I was extremely proud to hear that he was elected. I was extremely happy that his work will be noticed by not just Top 5 or the instructors but everyone around the corp. Getting in a position like flight sergeant might not seem as big but getting that position mid-semester when the most work is assigned and for him to get straight to it I couldn't be more proud.”

As stated by Delta's Flight Commander, C/Burlinson is nothing short of deserving for Cadet of the Month! His work ethic and overall initiative for taking on a leadership position when his flight needed one show the kind of character C/Burlinson holds and truly these characteristics make him very deserving for Cadet of the Month. Congratulations Cadet Burlinson!

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# Promotion Tests

By Cadet Hannah Rosario

I had the great opportunity to interview one of our staff members, our Training Officer on the topic of the recent success of the promotion tests! Our current Training Officer is none other than C/1st Lt. Campbell! The position of a Training Officer comes with great responsibility, one of them being the management and the making of the promotion tests. Thus is the main focus of the interview. With the success of the last promotion test, I asked C/Campbell questions regarding his point of view, tips, and his overall experience!



*C/ 1st Lt. Jayvion Campbell*

C/Rosario: ***“What information do cadets have to study to pass their promotion test?”***

C/Campbell: “Cadets seeking to promote to an E-2 and E-3 rank have to study information found on the contrails such as their chain of command, phonetic alphabet, uniform combinations, etc. However, cadets seeking to promote to an E-4 or higher have to study their uniform regulations on top of their contrail knowledge.”

C/Rosario: ***“When will the next promotion test be?”***

C/Campbell: “There will be no promotion test during the month of December (because nobody wants to take the test during winter break). The next promotion test will be near the end of January.”

C/Rosario: ***“What would you advise cadets do in order to prepare for their promotion tests?”***

C/Campbell: “The number one thing that Cadets should do to prepare for the test is to study. Whether it’s to write down information on a sheet of paper to help you remember or just going through the quizlets that I’ve made, Cadets should try their best to get a good grasp on the information found on the contrails and/or the Cadet Guide. As always, I want to make myself as accessible as possible to them, so they can always call me for help whenever needed.”

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C/Rosario: *“Are there any challenges that you have come across as a Training Officer in this virtual environment? If so, how did you get through those challenges?”*

C/Campbell: “Due to being in a virtual environment, I had to change how the promotion process worked. On top of that, I had to make sure that those who've never seen the promotion test process understood how it worked and could do it easily and efficiently. It was definitely a real challenge the first time around and it still is to a certain extent, but getting feedback from everyone and looking back at the mistakes that I had made previously to do better now really made those challenges seem a lot less daunting than they were the first couple of months.”

C/Rosario: *“How did your experiences taking the promotion test influence the test(s) you’ve made?”*

C/Campbell: “In the past, I realized that the time frame between taking a promotion test was really long. If you ever failed a promotion test you’d have to wait a while until the next promotion test came up. It was also hard trying to remember how many weeks had passed since the last promotion test so I had no choice but to just estimate how many weeks had gone by. So, to solve these problems I made the promotion tests be monthly. Having the promotion tests take place each month make it so that if you fail the promotion test the first time around, there is always another chance to take the test and pass, it also makes it easier to figure out the last time you took the promotion test since I always record the specific dates each promotion test takes place.”

If you have any questions about promotion tests or anything regarding promoting to a higher rank, feel free to contact our Training Officer, C/1st Lt. Campbell by email, [1000047282@tvusd.us](mailto:1000047282@tvusd.us), and/or the remind, [@ca933p](https://www.instagram.com/ca933p)



*From Left to Right: C/Alexander Bowen, C/Samantha Alvarado and C/Jayvion Campbell*

# Veterans Supplemental Support Network

By Cadet Samanta Alvarado



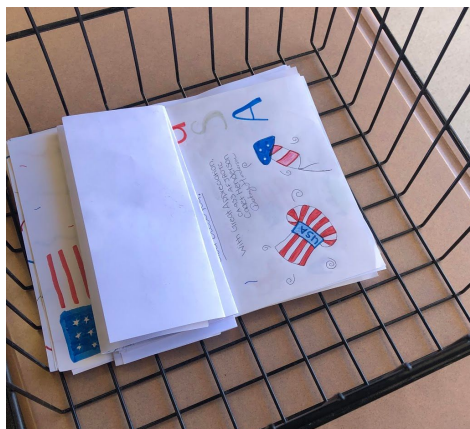
*C/Enzo Custodio and C/Chistian Salazar with the gift basket donations*

In mid-October, our corp had the great opportunity to help spread some holiday cheer with help from the Veterans Supplemental Support Network. The Veterans Supplemental Support Network or VSSN for short is a non-profit organization whose mission is to end suicide hardship and homelessness by creating easy access to a network of Community resources for military and veteran families. During the Holiday season, VSSN usually holds a family event called “Winter Wonderland” where veterans and their families come together to enjoy food, music, holiday cheer, and the children even meet Santa Claus himself!



*C/Brooke Mueller preparing to assemble baskets*

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has prevented VSSN to continue this tradition but that didn’t stop them from formulating a plan to ensure all veterans got the appreciation they deserve!



During this holiday season, our cadets helped create gift baskets and handwritten letters to our amazing veterans! The letters were filled with heartfelt messages expressing the cadet’s personal gratitude towards our veterans. Each letter was written with the hope of bringing a smile to a veteran’s face this season during these hard times. Led by our incredible cadet staff and our AFJROTC instructor Master Sergeant Knight, our corp was able to deliver 243 letters and 10 bags filled with donations from canned foods to socks! The donations and letters were delivered to our veterans in heartfelt gift baskets to show our appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices they have made.

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# Drill Team Practice

By Cadet Alexander Bowen, Daniel Rueda

AMAZING NEWS!!! In the first week of November, drill team members were allowed to return to campus with their respective drill team and practice in person. Yes, that means that after the many months of isolation, the cadets who returned to campus had social interactions with people other than family members. Even though cadets are going back to campus, COVID-19 is still very real and caused the practices to change from what it normally looks like drastically.



*Armed Drill Team during practice*

When at practice, cadets follow strict safety guidelines that must be followed, these requirements include but are not limited to social distancing, wearing masks, going through a temperature check and COVID questionnaire to make sure cadets have not been exposed or maybe showing any symptoms relating to COVID-19, and many more. Safety is a top priority for everyone involved in the drill team practices. But even with all the safety precautions, cadets are finally able to practice and interact with their teammates on a more efficient level and the cadets are loving it! But don't take it from me, C/Rueda has conducted a small interview with some drill team members to get an inside look at how they feel about returning to practice.

C/Rueda: *“How do you feel coming back to practice in person?”*

C/Ramsey (Sabre Commander): “It’s great! I love it! I am so happy to meet all my new and returning members, not just for my drill team but also for all other drill teams. As a commander, it is really exciting! I missed commanding I miss seeing all their faces and even with all the safety protocols I am so incredibly happy to command again.

C/Jauregui (Returning Armed Drill Member): “When I first heard the news I was really really happy because I haven’t seen my teammates for almost a year and hearing that we will be coming back I was just happy because I got to see my friends again and I was able to interact with them, and also gave me the opportunity to practice again and improve my movements and I got to go back to school which not many people are able to right now and I am just incredibly happy.”

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C/Sage (Freshman Cadet): “I was excited. There was a chance to meet all my team members and get to build better relationships with those people. I expected it to be a very formulated experience, and I knew it was going to be a challenge but one I was ready to face and so far It has been a blast. Learning new skills is something I’m passionate about, and it really makes the experience a lot of fun.”



*Sabre Drill Team during practice*

Just from the reaction of these cadets, we can see how much drill practice means to them along with the overall impact that it has made on cadets. The commanders as shown are finally able to teach again and command their teams how they used to and how they love to do it. We also have our returning cadets who are just as happy for they have created an unbreakable bond with their teams and seeing

their friends again in person, something they haven’t been allowed to do in almost 9 months. And our freshmen, who are new to the corp have the chance to truly see what the AFJROTC experience is all about and what being in a drill team offers as far as friendships and memories go.

Myself, as part of the armed drill team, I can say from firsthand experience that coming back to practice is something that has changed the cadets’ quarantined life and I am sure that this is just the first step and soon these cadets will be able to go to competitions and go back to how things used to be before COVID-19.



*All drill teams preparing for practice and going over safety regulations*



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# History of Christmas and New Years

By Cadet Alexis Pottorf

## How did Christmas Start? Before the Common Era

For centuries, the middle of winter (mid December) was a time for celebration. Europeans threw celebrations since they passed the rough part of winter and were looking forward to longer daylight hours in the upcoming months.

In Scandinavia the Norse celebrated the return of the sun. In recognition of this, fathers and sons would bring large logs home which were then set on fire. The people would then feast until the logs burned out which could take up to twelve days. They believed that each spark represented a new pig or calf that was going to be born in the upcoming months.



*Oden's flights during Christmas*

In Germany, the people honored the pagan god Oden during this time. They believed that he made flights during the night to look over the people, which he would then decide who would perish. Because of this, most of the people stayed indoors.

In Rome, the people would celebrate Saturnalia which was when the Roman social hierarchy was no longer in effect. This celebration lasted for a month. During this celebration, people would feast together, no matter their position in society. Also around this time, the Romans celebrated Juvenalia, or a feast honoring the children of Rome since it was believed that on December 25th, Mithra, the god of the sun, was born of rock. The birth of Mithra was mostly celebrated by the upper classes.

## How and why was Christmas cancelled?

During the 1600s, the Europeans experienced a “wave” of religious reform. When Oliver Cromwell took over England in 1645, him and his Puritans “vowed to rid England of decadence”

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which included Christmas. Because of the widespread demands, Charles II restored his position as the King of England and returned the holiday.

The Pilgrims, who inhabited early America mostly had Puritan beliefs, so Christmas was not a holiday. It was even outlawed in Boston from 1659 to 1681. People who exhibited the Christmas spirit were fined 5 shillings, or around 20 US dollars. However, the other settlements down the east coast did not agree with these views and were able to celebrate Christmas freely.

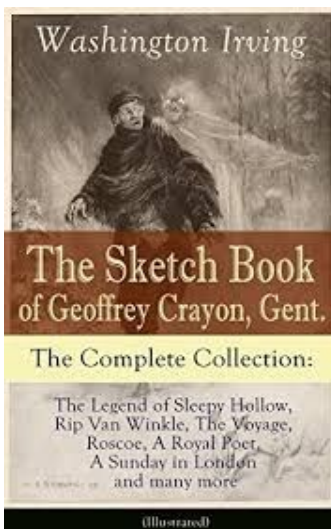
After the American Revolution Christmas as well as English customs fell out of society norms. Christmas was only declared a federal holiday on June 26, 1870.

### Reinventing Christmas

In the past, Christmas was viewed as a celebration of mostly the gods and the sun with a few exceptions. But how did we get to the traditional celebration that we have today? In the early 1800s, around this time there were a bunch of riots, unemployment, and gang related incidences. In 1828,



*A Christmas celebration in the late 1800s*



New York city established the first police force in response to one of these “Christmas riots.” This urged members of the upper classes to begin to change the way Christmas was celebrated. Washington Irving wrote “The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, gent.” which was a series of stories about the celebration of Christmas. The stories illustrated were a large contrast to the problems faced in American society at that time. Irving believed that Christmas should be peaceful and warm, in order to bring groups of people together. His stories had some elements of the “ancient customs” such as the feast and other areas of celebration. Many historians believe that Irving’s stories invented the tradition by stating that it is the true customs of the season.

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How did New Years start?

The earliest New Year celebration is dated back 4,000 years, in ancient Babylon. They marked the new year in late march, when a new moon occurred. A massive religious festival called Akiu lasted 11 days. During this time a new king was crowned or the current ruler's divine mandate was renewed.

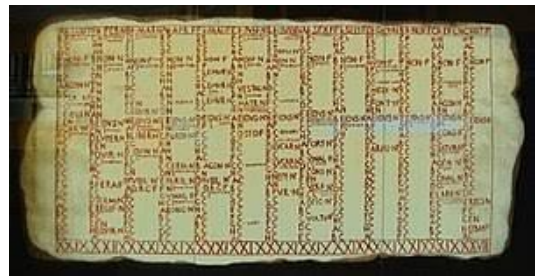


*Akiu New Year Celebration*

The New Year's date has changed over the years as new calendars were developed and through different civilizations. For example, in Egypt the new year began with the flooding of the Nile river which coincided with the rising of Sirius, the star. However, the Chinese New Year began with the second new moon after the winter solstice.

How did we get our New Year's date?

The original Roman calendar had 10 months and 304 days, with the new year at the beginning of the new moon in march, or the vernal equinox. Eventually, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun. Therefore, Julius Caesar created the calendar which is close to the calendar we use today.



*Julius Caesar Calendar*

Caesar established January 1st as the first day of the year to honor Janus the Roman god of beginnings. Romans celebrated the New Year by giving offerings to Janus, exchanging gifts with one another, and decorated their homes.

In medieval Europe, leaders temporarily replaced the New Years date (January 1st) with days that carried more religious significance such as March 25th, and December 25th. However, Pope Gregory XIII reestablished New Year's as January 1st in 1582.

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# Meet the Newsletter Team!



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# STAY IN TOUCH WITH CA-933!



*Interested in joining the Newsletter Team? Wanna suggest an article?*

*Message us on Remind! Message us [@jrotcwrites](https://www.instagram.com/jrotcwrites)*

*If interested in joining, speak to Cadet Alvarado!*



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