



# THE

# CADET

**C**ADETS  
**A**SPIRING  
**D**EDICATING  
**E**DUCATING  
**T**OGETHER

April 1, 2025

Quarter 3, Volume 1, Issue 3

## DEA OFFERS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

LTC (R) Dietz is Lennard High School's sole Florida State Approving Agent for the Title 35/Dependent's Education Assistance (DEA) program. If you're the child or spouse of a deceased, missing, or disabled Veteran (100% service-connected), you may qualify for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program. Contact LTC Dietz at david.dietz@hcps.net for more information.

## THE CADET

The Cadet is the official newsletter of Longhorn JROTC, created by Cadets, for Cadets. Its purpose is to keep Cadets, parents, and guardians informed each quarter. Thanks to Cadet CPT Isabela Stitt, Cadet 1LT Jiaralee Gama, and Cadet 1LT Olivia Estes for their contributions.

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## DRILL COMPETITION TESTS CADETS

JROTC drill meets are competitive events where high school Cadets display their hard work from the drill season. Competitions include armed and unarmed regulation drill, exhibition drill, color guard, and inspection. Each routine requires precise synchronization, sharp movements, and strict adherence to commands, showcasing the dedication and countless hours of practice by the Lennard drill team. The 2024-2025 season included meets at the University of Tampa, Armwood High, and Alonzo High. We are proud of our drill team's continued improvement and growth.



From left to right, Cadets Jase Ellis, Max Britton, Logan Aman, and Alexander Gutierrez presenting the colors at the University of Tampa Drill competition



From left to right: Cadets Jordyn Wilson, Karen Ortiz Garcia, Kimora Smith, Alexie Torres, and Logan Stark receiving awards at Lennard's JROTCs annual award ceremony

## AWARD CEREMONY RECOGNIZES CADETS

The annual JROTC award ceremony honors Cadets' dedication, leadership, and achievements throughout the school year. It is a formal event where Cadets receive medals, ribbons, and certifications for their hard work and commitment to the program's values of leadership, service, and excellence.

For many, receiving an award reflects perseverance, teamwork, and personal growth. The ceremony also strengthens camaraderie as Cadets celebrate each other's accomplishments and look ahead to new leadership opportunities.

# THE CADET

## COACH SPOTLIGHT



Coach James (JW) Butler and Cadets Aiyana Maldonado and Kyah Vance

In this issue of The Cadet, the ROTC would like to recognize Coach James (JW) Butler, Lennard's head girls' basketball coach.

**Q: What was your job in the army?**

**A:** I was a combat medic in the U.S. Army.

**Q: How did the military prepare you for coaching?**

**A:** In the military, as a medical professional you gain many levels of training in leadership and development. The military provided a strong structure of growth, drive, and passion to pursue greater heights of achievements.

**Q: If you could give Cadet athletes a blueprint for success to serve in the military, what would it be?**

**A:** The basic blueprint is quite simple, "Never stop trying to learn, succeed and accomplish higher levels of success."

## RECENT NATIONAL EVENTS

- 39th President Jimmy Carter lies in state at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda
- Philadelphia Eagles win Super Bowl LIX
- SpaceX rescues stranded U.S. astronauts from the International Space Station
- Wildfires ravage California

# RAISING THEIR RIGHT HAND

Several Cadets from the JROTC program have recently enlisted in the military, marking a significant transition from high school to their future careers in the service. This step reflects their growth and commitment, as they move from the structured high school environment to the demands of military life, gaining valuable skills, discipline, and experiences that will forever shape their futures.

Meanwhile, committing to a college ROTC program allows students to develop leadership skills, earn financial benefits, and prepare for a military career while earning a degree. ROTC offers a balance between academics and military training, providing flexibility, cost savings, and opportunities for career success in both military and civilian sectors. Congratulations to these Cadets as they embark on this incredible new chapter in their lives!

## MILITARY ENLISTMENTS

Ian Crisp (USAF)  
 TJ Boggs (USAF)  
 Zaylee Herman (USAF)  
 Kirve Flavien (USMC)  
 Ivan Sorokotiah (USMC)  
 Jaron McFarquhar (USA)  
 Jorge Alvarado (USA)  
 Kenton Dhaemers (FLARNG)



Cadet Jorge Alvarado and SSG Deguzman during his US Army Oath of Enlistment.

## ROTC COMMITMENTS

Alex Gutierrez (Embry Riddle AFROTC)  
 Tatyana Adams (Norwich NROTC)



Cadets Smith, Gillett, Stitt, James, Wurth, and Estes at the University of South Florida ROTC tour.

## JROTC CADETS TOUR LOCAL COLLEGES

In January, a handful of Junior Cadets toured the University of Tampa and University of South Florida campuses. College tours are crucial for juniors in JROTC as they provide firsthand exposure to potential schools, helping Cadets make informed decisions about their future education and careers. These tours allow students to explore campus life, interact with faculty and ROTC program leaders, and gain insight into scholarship opportunities, including those available through military-affiliated programs.



# LENNARD JROTC

## CADET SPOTLIGHT



Cadet CPT Kyah Vance

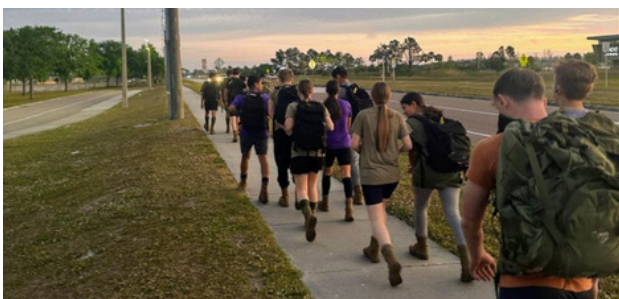
For this edition of The Cadet, we would like to recognize senior Cadet CPT Kyah Vance.

**Q: How has JROTC impacted you?**

**A:** JROTC has had a tremendous impact on my growth as a leader, student, and person.

**Q: How has JROTC helped you with other clubs and teams outside of JROTC?**

**A:** It has even influenced my leadership outside of the program, such as earning the role of Team Captain on my Lennard Flag football team.



Cadets conditioning their legs rucking in support of their Cadet Challenge.

## CADETS CHALLENGED

The JROTC Cadet Challenge is a rigorous event that tests the physical fitness, endurance, and leadership skills of Cadets. The challenge not only emphasizes physical endurance but also encourages strategic thinking, communication, and competitiveness among cadets. It serves as a way to assess their progress in the program, build camaraderie, and inspire a sense of accomplishment and pride in their achievements.

# THE CADET

## RECRUITER SPOTLIGHT



SGT Duncan Awarding Cadet Dhaemers for enlisting in the Florida Army National Guard FLARNG.

For this edition of The Cadet, Recruiter Spotlight, we would like to recognize Lennard High School FLARNG recruiter SGT Alexander Duncan.

**Q: What is your job?**

**A:** I joined the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff, serving four years on road patrol. Since January 2024, I've taken on the role of Recruiting and Retention NCO for the Florida Army National Guard.

**Q: What are your proudest moments while being in the FLARNG?**

**A:** I had the honor of supporting my local community in the Tampa Bay area during the aftermath of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. I assisted in distributing critical supplies like food, water, and tarps to affected residents, coordinated with local agencies to support recovery efforts, and engaged with community members to provide reassurance and resources during a challenging time. I was mobilized for nine months to the National Capital Region, where I helped safeguard the area from aerial threats.

**Q: What is your favorite part of being a recruiter?**

**A:** I'm honored to share my journey not only with the JROTC Cadets but with all Longhorns, inspiring every student to explore their potential through leadership, service, and resilience.

## CADET BIRTHDAYS

### JANUARY

Sorokotiah, Ivan  
Colon, Samantha  
Miranda, Johnathan  
Callahan, Liam  
Vargas, Genesis  
Maldonado-Morgado, Marin  
Maybard, Payton  
Stephens, Kendalynn  
Strickland, Jaiden

### FEBRUARY

Damiron, Emmanuel  
Herman, Zaylee  
Arellano-Morgado, Emily  
Ali, Aliza  
Gama, Jiaralee  
Hunter, Christian  
Galvan, Jillian  
Marin, Melissa  
Marin, Valerie  
Ortiz-Garcia, Karen  
Stitt, Isabela  
Salters, Tye'Leah

### MARCH

Bannister, Taniya  
Johnson, De'Yahnni  
Quintero, Yarelli  
Green, Ni'Kia  
Perez, Anthony  
West, Eric  
Kirksey, Aiden  
Wilson, Jordan  
Villodas, Raphael  
Figueroa Martinez, Jayla  
Montrose, Andrew  
Bethune, Da'Mari  
Cruz, Angel

### APRIL

Maya-Bernal, Edwin  
Arnold, Jacob  
Alicia, Leena  
Roberts, Nathan  
Davis, Daren  
Garcia-Mullins, Lilly  
Gutierrez, Alexander  
Stark, Logan  
Walker, Javon  
Alvarado, Jorge

# THE CADET WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Former Cadet Elieser Vazquez  
Private First Class

In this edition of The Cadet, we highlight former Cadet and 2024 graduate, PFC Elieser Vazquez.

#### Q: Why did you enlist, and did it pay off?

**A:** Joining the military was a difficult decision, but in the end, it was worth it as it taught me how to become a true Soldier and made me a better person.

#### Q: Did JROTC prepare you at all for the military?

**A:** I would not have been nearly as prepared and ready to take that next step into becoming a real Army Soldier. With the great leadership, encouragement, and motivation I got from the JROTC program I was already being molded into a squared away Soldier.

#### Q: Would you recommend other people to join the military?

**A:** I highly encourage any young Cadets that are interested in joining the military to go be great and take that Oath of Enlistment.

## JROTC GIVES BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY



Lennard's JROTC is now part of the Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful family, supporting a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable Ruskin community. The Cadets will volunteer four times a year to maintain East Shell Point Rd and 24th NE Street near Lennard High School. This program fosters collaboration between Cadets and the community while providing essential services. The Cadets will begin cleanup of their responsible areas on 05 April.

**BN COMMANDER JARON MCFARQUHAR BN XO TATYANA ADAMS BN CSM SEAN PAYES**

### 2024-2025 CADET CHAIN OF COMMAND

#### SI ADJUNDANT

Cadet Chronik

#### S3 OPERATIONS

Cadet Gutierrez

#### S4 PERSONEL

Cadet Aman

#### S6 PUBLIC AFFAIRS MEDIA

Cadet Stitt

#### SI ASSISTANTS

Cadet Figueroa Martinez  
Cadet Chen

#### S3 ASSISTANTS

Cadet Ellis  
Cadet Gillett  
Cadet Britton

#### S4 ASSISTANTS

Cadet May  
Cadet Wurth

#### S6 ASSISTANTS

Cadet Gama  
Cadet Estes



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If you have questions regarding our JROTC program or this newsletter, please contact one of our instructors.



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