



Class of 2017-18...The Best Newsletter from the Best Class Ever!

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Police Day
April 19, 2018 @7:30am

Aurora Police
District 1 Station
13347 East Montview Blvd
Aurora, CO 80010

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From the President...

Wow – Look at Things GO!

Without a doubt activities have ramped up – in terms of our regular jobs and our work with Leadership Aurora. Military Day was phenomenal, and we were able to have some open dialogue about our Class Project. I wanted to say how grateful I am to work alongside such committed folks in Aurora. Our dialogue reinforced to me the level of commitment that everyone has for supporting our community. I thank you for your honesty and flexibility as we finalized our approach.

Since then, folks have been working to advance Committee work across the board. **Pay It Forward Committee** has secured a location along with a first round of beer and a food sponsor. They are coordinating details around decorations, meal/beverage tickets, and collection of auction items. **Video Committee** has been shooting footage throughout the past many sessions, including getting individual interviews during Military Day – definitely rocking it. **Yearbook Committee** has been reaching out to folks to get theme pages coordinated and beginning to collect info on what graduation sponsorships have been purchased that include

ad space in the yearbook. **Social Committee** is continuing to find us super fun places to rally together after we wrap up our sessions. **Graduation Committee** has secured a beer donation, has been working to secure a performance group and design table centerpieces, and has created the sponsorship brochure which was distributed during the Chamber Annual Awards event a few weeks ago. **Newsletter Committee** has been nailing it each and every month with powerful articles and questions to help us know each other better and has been getting lots of nods of approval from the Leadership Aurora Board. **Project Committee** has determined our next mini-project (book collection), is creating sponsorship letters/packets and a grassroots donor flyer, planning for video edits for the Purposity video (shooting this Saturday), and keeping connected with Pay It Forward.

To put it mildly – folks have been BUSY!

All this to say, thank you! Everyone is doing amazing work!

Tricia Johnson
Class President

Military Day

Buckley Air Force Base – Aurora’s “city within a city”

Buckley Air Force Base, located in east Aurora since 1938, truly operates as its own “city within a city.” Throughout its history Buckley has been home to a variety of military operations, known as Lowry Auxiliary Field, Buckley Field, Naval Air Station Denver, and Buckley Air National Guard Base, and finally as Buckley Air Force Base once it became home to the 821st Space Group in 2000. Buckley serves as one of one of the largest economic drivers in the Front Range, employing over 14,000 people that include military personnel, contractors, and service industry professionals. Buckley supports over 94,000 community members, contributing a net economic impact of approximately \$914,000,000 to the local economy. Over 1,400 people reside on base at Buckley.

Buckley AFB's host unit, the 460th Space Wing, falls under the direction of 14th Air Force and Air Force Space Command. All five military branches are represented at Buckley – Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, and the Coast Guard. Buckley is also host to allies from countries around the globe. For its everyday operational mission, the 460th SW directly supports Combatant Commands across the globe. The wing protects our nation through a combination of air operations, space surveillance operations (including space-based missile warning capabilities), and providing Airmen for various warfighting deployments worldwide. Buckley is the only place worldwide where the US Military monitors Overhead Persistent Infrared Missions (OPIRs). Think of Buckley as our “central nervous system” for global intelligence for the US military branches and our allies.

Besides being the home of the 460 SW, the base also hosts the 140th Wing, Colorado Air National Guard, the Navy Operational Support Center, the Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado, the Army Aviation Support Facility and the Air Reserve Personnel Center. These are also known as the “Big Five” mission partners at Buckley. While the airfield at Buckley can accommodate virtually all military aircraft, four main aircraft are based here. The Air National Guard’s 120th Fighter Squadron operates F-16’s, while the Army National Guard flies Black Hawk, Chinook, and Lakota helicopters from the base.



Members of LA Class 2017-18 pose in front of a Colorado Air National Guard F-16.

Buckley Top Guns

Leadership Aurora’s classmates agree that the highlight of the day was getting up close and personal with Buckley’s amazing air fleet and pilots. While we all marveled during our teenage years at the movie Top Gun, Major Joshua Burger reminded us that, “It’s not all playing volleyball in gym shorts!” Flying the Air Force F-16’s can be a grueling physical experience. Fighter pilots are subjected to incredibly harsh flying conditions in combat situations. Normal flight missions – either “air-to-air” or “air-to-ground” – last less than two hours, but longer flights of eight hours or more can be especially demanding for pilots. The cockpit is cramped, temperature swings can be extreme, and pilots can be subjected to nine times the force of gravity during flight maneuvers. It comes as no surprise that 25,000 pounds of thrust will toss you around more than just a little bit. F-16 pilots wear highly specialized flight suits to protect themselves from these harsh conditions. The flight suits contain air bladders that inflate to adjust pressure across the body to maintain blood flow to the brain and prevent blackouts during flight. Helmets are designed to not only provide protection, but to house integrated intelligence equipment. Pilots use unique visors or monacle technology to see critical flight information and to conduct flight maneuvers in total darkness. All of this flight gear can cost upwards to \$400,000 per pilot, while the F-16’s are estimated to cost \$10,000 per hour to fly.

All of our classmates were sure to take a turn taking photographs in front of the plane we were allowed to look at. While we represent many high level positions of business and service in Aurora, we were all inspired by the opportunity to see these planes up close. The Air Force began to fly our current F-16’s beginning in 1991. These aircraft can be configured any number of ways to deliver laser guided munitions as part of the combat mission. With a wingspan of 33 feet, these single-engine fighter jets are capable of impressive aerobatics in order to evade enemies or to conduct offensive maneuvers in combat situations. While the physical demands of a pilot are great, their flying careers are relatively short. Most pilots actively fly for 10-12 years in their positions.

What's with those big "golf balls?"

We've all seen them off in the distance, but very few people get the chance to see the radomes – or Satellite Readout Stations – up close. These unique architectural spectacles are designed to house the most technically advanced global surveillance equipment on earth. Inside each of the radomes, Buckley houses huge satellite dish receivers that measure 60 feet tall and weigh about 55 tons. The radomes themselves stand about 100 feet tall and are made up of over 800 fiberglass panels each. While the golf balls certainly stand out against our mountain backdrop, they simply stand to protect Buckley's sensitive surveillance equipment. The structures provide protection from Colorado's harsh and extreme environment that include, snow, rain, hail, and tremendous lightning. The radomes are engineered to withstand the force of an F5 tornado.

The mission at Buckley Air Force Base is simple – defend our homeland. Buckley has served as our main missile warning site in the US since 1972. Buckley is the only place worldwide where the US Military monitors Overhead Persistent Infrared Missions (OPIRs). Critical defense information is received and evaluated by partners from all five US military branches, as well as allied partners from around the globe stationed at Buckley. Once received, this vital defense information is disseminated as needed to military installations worldwide. Our military stands on high alert to all potential threats at all times.

This complex network of equipment monitors satellite transmissions that provide critical technical intelligence. This network is responsible for early missile warnings and continuous global surveillance, tracking, and targeting. This is the world's most critical link in early warning and defense. Every missile launched on planet earth can be detected here at Buckley.



Left: Susi Marlina (URS/AECOM) and Yvonne Valdez (Citywide Banks) explore the interior of a Colorado Army National Guard helicopter.

Right: UH-72 Lakota Eurocopter belonging to the Colorado Army National Guard.

Above: LTC Walsh (Colorado Army National Guard) explains the capabilities of the Blackhawk helicopter to LA Class 2017-18.



Rescue and Relief – The Colorado Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility

Not all missions are best suited to the quick-strike capability of the F-16 fighter jets. The Aviation Support Facility provides support both during wartime and in local times of need. US Army helicopter operations are well suited to search and rescue missions, forest fire mitigation, and relief situations during natural disasters. The Army National Guard partners with the active Army and Reserve forces in fulfilling the country's military needs on a local, national, and international level. Buckley's Aviation Support Facility has been participating in active deployments, primarily in the Middle East, regularly since 2004. In addition to wartime support, our National Guard plays a large part in maintaining safety, especially in Colorado's remote mountain environs. They are often utilized in search and rescue operations for people who are lost or injured in Colorado's high country. The Aviation Support Facility mans a fleet of Chinook, Blackhawk, and Lakota helicopters that are kept at the ready for activation on short notice. Rescue efforts on Colorado's highest peaks require the power and stability of Blackhawk or Chinook teams. Lighter duty missions can be conducted with the Lakota, which is not equipped for the rigors of combat.

During times of natural disaster, it is common for the National Guard to be called upon when emergency needs exceed the response capabilities of local agencies. It is most common for National Guard units to be activated by the governor, although, they can also be activated by Presidential order.

The kid in all of us once again came out when we toured the Aviation Support Facility. Here our Leadership Aurora class was able to climb into Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters. Virtually all of us had our photos taken in the pilot seats of these versatile aircraft. These aircraft possess dizzying arrays of controls and instrumentation, making veteran pilots true masters of their craft.

Get to know your classmates!

Each month we talk to a group of your classmates and ask questions so we can get to know each other better. This month we are featuring Colin Spencer, who we all know as the class historian/recorder, Beth Klein from FirstBank, and James Rowley who is an HR guru at Advantage Security.

Here is what they had to say:

What do you do in your current position?

James: HR Manager for approximately 650+ employees. My team and I handle all HR related issues for the company. I am also the Facility Security Officer which pertains to backgrounds for individuals security clearances.

Colin: I am the owner of Colin Spencer Productions---a concept to completion video production company. We are a two person company, my partner, who happens to be my wife and I really enjoy meeting with clients and bringing their story to life through video. I'm very passionate about creating projects for our clients. My goal is always to make sure that the project work for our client and the message is clear and supports their goals. I love my job because it takes me behind the scenes of so many interesting businesses

Beth: I currently oversee bank operations and business development for the Aurora Market at FirstBank.

If you were famous, what would you be famous for?

James: I would definitely say if I was famous it would be for my BBQ.

Colin: Who said I wasn't famous? Hmm... My goal has never been to be famous. I just like being with my family and making those around me have fun and laugh.

Beth: In a completely imaginary scenario, I'd love to be famous for my cooking! Though, would really have to learn how to cook for this to happen.

You can only own either a smartphone or a computer, which do you choose?

James: I would choose the computer as I do not like working off of the phone.

Colin: Well, I am seriously, Directionally Impaired, so I count on my cell phone EVERY TIME I drive my car. BUT, I use my computer for my business. I guess I have to choose my computer as I need to eat more than I need to know where I am going. Plus reading paper maps is always fun!

Beth: Smartphone

If you could live any historical figure's life, which one would you choose?

James: The 40th President Ronald Reagan.

Colin: I would be Leonardo da Vinci. Painter, Inventor, Gadfly, Scientist, Traveler "Renaissance Man" Plus, no matter where he went, he always carried around a picture of his girlfriend in his wallet, Mona Lisa.

Beth: Maybe Neil Armstrong?

What advice would you give to your younger self?

James: Always understand that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and don't take things so personal. Also make sure you join the military right after high school.

Colin: Be nicer to yourself. Being your own worst critic gets you nowhere.

Beth: Relax and have more confidence in yourself!

What's the most out-of-character thing you've ever done?

James: Ask for help, or say that I need help.

Colin: I grew up in California surfing, that was my sole passion. My wife and I lived less than a hundred yards from the beach. Suddenly I accepted a job in Oklahoma...It was a huge culture shock on top of the lack of any beaches.

Beth: Probably skydiving

Finally, what would you like people to know about you?

James: I cherish helping people. I don't always say things the right things the right way however I would be willing to give you the shirt off my back if I know that it will help.

Colin: My New Year's Resolution was to start smoking...Failed at that. Now I just want to make more friends. My entire adult life has been focused on raising my two children. Now I want to try and have friends I can have fun with.

Beth: I have no idea - I'm an open book, if you ask, though!