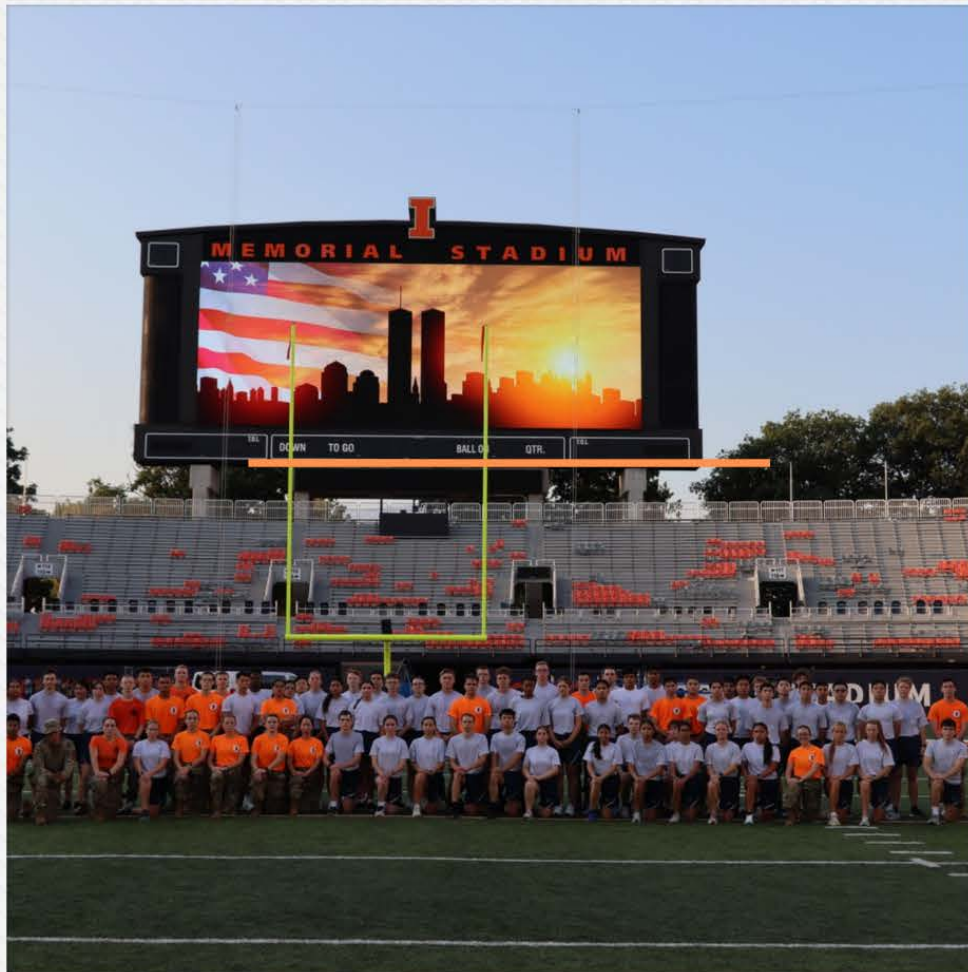


# FLYPAPER

Det 190

2025-26



*Flyin' Illini*

# A YEAR IN REVIEW

2025-2026

Over the 2025-2026 school year, Det 190 had many great accomplishments. With leadership training, detachment competitions, base trips, and awards ceremonies---we flew high and conquered.

Fall 2025 began with our new detachment commander, Lt Col Meents, and our newly minted POC, ready to make an impact. Flights consisted of 100s and 200s this year, a change implemented by the all-senior wing staff. This allowed 200s to take on mentorship roles and grow camaraderie with the 100s.

We took a few road trips during the fall semester to participate in leadership events such as Show Me Cup, and closed the semester with Dining Out.

Spring 2026 kicked off with a change in command, as the new wing staff brought in great enthusiasm.

## **“Fortuna Favet Fortibus”**

The 200 class transitioned into their Professional Officer Course Preparation. This is the necessary training to prepare 200s for their POC years, and field training. The 200s hard work paid off as PSP results were released, awarding twelve out of twelve 200s with a spot.

Det 190 had a successful school year with outstanding attitudes and clocked in over 190 hours of leadership development.

*Special thank you to Maj Gen Darren Cole, Commander of 21stAF and class of 1992, for his mentoring visit.*

# 2025-26 WING STAFF

Fall '25



C/Michalec  
FA25 Chief of Staff



C/Sutherland  
FA25 Wing Commander



C/Podojil  
FA25 Inspector General

Spring '26



C/Spitzner  
SP26 Chief of Staff



C/Podojil  
SP26 Wing Commander



C/Bradley  
SP26 Inspector General

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# POW/MIA Vigil

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The POW/MIA Vigil is one of the detachment's most meaningful traditions. For 24 hours, cadets marched in silent watch to honor America's prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action. The vigil serves as a reminder of their sacrifice and our enduring commitment to never forget those who have yet to return home.



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## 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb

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Each year, Air Force cadets join Army and Navy ROTC, along with members of the Fire Academy and Police Academy, for the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Memorial Stadium. Participants climb the equivalent number of stairs ascended by the firefighters who entered the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, honoring their extraordinary courage and selfless sacrifice.



The climb is a powerful reminder of the commitment shared by those who choose a life of service. Together, participants reflect on the bravery displayed that day and reaffirm their dedication to serving others with integrity, courage, and resilience.

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# Show Me Cup

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In October, we received an invitation to Show Me Cup, a competition between AFROTC detachments across the region, hosted by Mizzou. The Flying Illini showed out in each event, bringing grit and determination.

Unfortunately, we did not take home the Cup, but we had a great time competing and getting to know other detachments during our time there.



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## ND Tournament

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This annual two-day invitational basketball tournament hosted by the University of Notre Dame was an outstanding time. Det 190 got our name out there amongst the other schools, and even exchanged patches with a few.

The tournament consists of men's and women's brackets. With twenty-five plus teams, there was a fair amount of competition. The ladies of Det 190 finished fourth overall, and the men showed out with great effort.



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# Dining Out

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We ended the fall semester with Dining out, an evening of long-lived military traditions and celebration. Det 190 and distinguished guest Major General McDonough, gathered to recognize the semester's accomplishments and hard work, and strengthen the bonds that define our wing.



The evening included the traditional grog ceremony, which was delightful per usual, bringing humor and camaraderie as cadets and cadre put their poetry skills to use. Thank you C/Lee and her team for such a special night.



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## Honors Day

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Honors Day is an annual awards ceremony that recognizes the hard work, leadership, and dedication of cadets across the university's Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC programs.

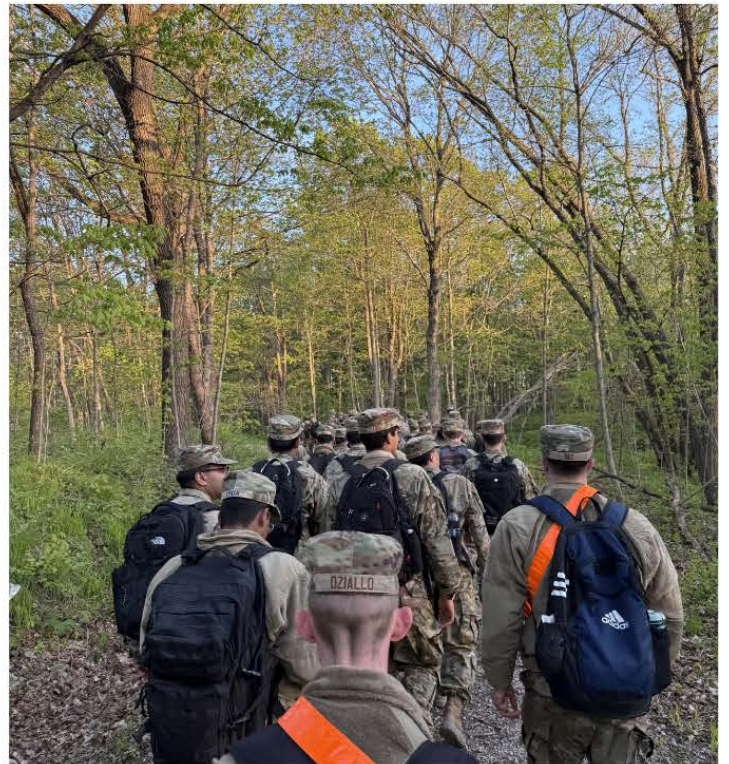


Thanks to the generosity of our sponsoring organizations, outstanding cadets are honored for their accomplishments throughout the year. Their achievements reflect the values of service, excellence, and commitment that define the future of our nation's armed forces.

# DX



Our detachment's Deployment Exercise (DX) took place at Marseilles Training Center. On Day 1, our cadets learned about land navigation, IED detection, and wearing MOPP gear. These lessons later helped cadets in GLPs, where they were expected to apply what they had learned.



Finally, cadets ran red-versus-blue exercises to demonstrate the tactics and security lessons they learned throughout the year. They rescued downed airmen, interacted with host nations, and combated insurgents. Thank you so much to our DX leads, C/Michalec and C/Heller, for all their hard work and dedication to making this weekend so memorable.

# Commander's Corner



**Lt Col Meents, Det 190 PAS Commander**

As I reflect on my first year as Commander of Detachment 190, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our outstanding cadets and witness their growth as leaders. Their commitment to development, service, and excellence led to remarkable success: 40+ new enrollees, all 12 cadets selected for PSP, and commissioning 9 new 2nd Lts. These achievements are a testament not only to our cadets, but also to the families, friends, and alumni whose support, mentorship, and encouragement strengthen our mission every day.

Looking ahead to the 2026-2027 academic year, I am excited to expand opportunities that challenge and develop our cadets while strengthening connections with our University and alumni. Thank you for your continued support of Detachment 190. The door is always open to help mentor and prepare Detachment 190 cadets for their future service in the Air and Space Force.

## Goodbye & Farewells

*Lt. Col Bryant*



"Lt. Col Bryant was always very open about his experiences and willing to share his advice, and his presence pushed me to be a better version of myself."

~ C/Welty

*Capt. Zinkl*



"Capt. Zinkl brought cadets a unique perspective as a young officer with valuable advice to give, and he was always such a joy to work with. Capt. Zinkl has contributed so much to my development as a leader"

~ C/Hartke

*TSgt. Pompey*



"TSgt. Pompey is one of the most genuine people I've ever had the chance to know. He could talk about forest foliage to breaking down Barbie movie lore and make both topics equally engaging."

~ C/Rao S.

# SENIORS



Alexander  
Spitzner  
AFSC: 62E



Sophia  
Sutherland  
AFSC: 21A



Conner  
Michalec  
AFSC: 11XX



Rachel  
Bradley  
AFSC: 14F



Emma  
Podojil  
AFSC: 12X



Nurie  
Langlois  
AFSC: 51J



Melissa  
Valle  
AFSC: 13B



Griffin  
Costello  
AFSC: 14N



Sebastian  
Rivera  
AFSC: 62 E



# COMMISSIONING

*Thank you to Brig Gen (Ret) Thomas Kittler, Class of 1984, for serving as the guest speaker at our Commissioning Ceremony and administering the oath of office to our newest officers.*











# Stay Connected!

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