



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR
FORCE
AIR UNIVERSITY (AETC)**

4 September 2019

Colonel Stephen T. Sanders
Director, HQ Air Force Junior ROTC
60 West Maxwell Boulevard Maxwell
AFB AL 36112-6501

Dear Air Force Junior ROTC Cadets,

Greetings and welcome back to a new school year, and thank you for choosing to be a part of Air Force Junior ROTC! I'm Colonel Stephen (Steve) Sanders and I'm your new Air Force Junior ROTC Director. It is an honor and a privilege to join this incredible team and be a part of such an important mission. First off, I would like to publicly thank the previous director, and my good friend, Colonel Paul Lips for everything he did for Air Force Junior ROTC. We are extremely appreciative for his 24 years of faithful service to his country and we wish him and his family all the best in retirement.

I've been on active duty for 24 years after earning my commission from the United States Air Force Academy in 1995. Over the course of my career I've been assigned to many units located across the country and the world, and I simply can't express to you how excited I am to be here and to serve as the director for an organization that invest so much in the future of our great country...*YOU*. I will also tell you, it's clearly evident to me we have a highly motivated staff of 31 professionals here at headquarters, and a talented team of over 1,900 instructors around the world, that are committed to our mission to *develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community*. Our team works tirelessly every day to ensure you have an outstanding experience in Air Force Junior ROTC.

As an Air Force Junior ROTC cadet, you are truly part of something special! It really doesn't seem like too long ago that I was in high school trying to figure things out. What did I want to do with my life? What are my dreams? What are my goals? How do I achieve those dreams and goals? Throughout your tenure in this program you will develop skills that will help you answer these questions, and set you on a path for success no matter what you choose to do in life. You will lead...you will follow...you will learn from failure... and you will learn how to handle success.

Once again, I am thankful for this opportunity and extremely humbled by the trust and confidence the Air Force has placed in me to carry on the legacy of this great organization. It's an honor to for me to be part of your team.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen T. Sanders".

STEPHEN T. SANDERS, Colonel, USAF
Director