



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

9 August 2021

Colonel Johnny R. McGonigal  
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 (AFJROTC)! I'm Colonel Johnny McGonigal, and I'm your new AFJROTC 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 Stephen Sanders for everything he did for AFJROTC. We are extremely appreciative for his 26 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 27 years after enlisting in the Air Force immediately upon graduating from high school, and was later commissioned through Officer Training School in 2000. Over the course of my career, I've been assigned to many incredible 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 your director for an organization that invests so much toward 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, along with an extremely talented team of nearly 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 AFJROTC.

As an AFJROTC 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 black ink, appearing to read "J. McGonigal", is positioned above the typed name.

JOHNNY R. MCGONIGAL, Colonel, USAF  
Director, Air Force JROTC