

Honorary Commanders receive day of combat immersion

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The Tinker Air Force Base class of 2019 Honorary Commanders returned to Tinker last week for another day of familiarization with the goings-on of Tinker and some immersion into military life.

During this particular visit, the group received a day of combat immersion, starting with a first-hand look at the training and partnering between Tinker and the public sector as well as the versatility and mission of Tinker Air Force Base Security Forces.



Honorary Commanders were given a combat immersion Oct. 1. They had the opportunity to shoot a taser at a paper target, watch combatives, dress in chemical gear and go through a deployment line. From left, Col. Ralph Taylor, 72nd Air Base Wing vice commander; Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear, chief of the Osage Nation; Allyson Carson, Leadership Oklahoma membership director; Leo Portman, attorney with GableGotwals; Sherry Jordan, executive director of Edmond Chamber of Commerce; Ronnie Freeman, partner with Premier Solution Partners; Christine Martin, communications director with Cox Communications; Todd Stone, Oklahoma City councilman for Ward 4; Shauna Smith, owner of Ahh Shoot! Photography; and Lt. Col. Ty Mayfield, 72nd Security Forces Squadron commander. (U.S. Air Force photo/Kelly White)

Lt. Col. Tyrell Mayfield, commander of the 72nd Security Forces Squadron, began the honorary commanders immersion with a rundown on the basic operations for the 422 military personnel, 12 civilian and 25 civilian police officers that make up Tinker's Security Forces.

"It takes a huge amount of manpower to protect and defend the installation, so we have a lot of initial entry Airmen in our squadron," Mayfield said.

"We're joint in that we work very closely with the Navy. Here on Tinker Air Force Base there's an entire Navy ramp and there's a Master of Arms program and they're integrated into our security posture, so we're coordinating daily with them and we also have our civilian police officers who are integrated into our squadron."

To continue the Security Forces immersion, a weapons display was put out for honorary commanders to view in the Security Forces North Training Bay followed by a Taser and combative demonstration. During the demonstration the group learned how to utilize a Taser and had the opportunity to practice what they learned on a training target.

Following the combat demonstration, the honorary commanders also received a military working dog demonstration, with one of the group members having the opportunity to jump into the bite suit.

In the afternoon, the group stopped by Civil Engineering for chemical briefing and CBRN course overview. After the overview they learned how to put on individual protective equipment, including a mask/carrier, CPO and boots, and completed an exercise.

To end the day, honorary commanders had the chance to see the training Airmen go through prior to deployment in order to provide a better understanding of the deployment process.

The Honorary Commanders Program lasts one year as a collaboration between community and Tinker AFB leaders with a goal of strengthening relationships and communication between off-base and military leadership.

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