



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

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Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Tipton
Director, HQ Air Force Junior ROTC
60 West Maxwell Boulevard
Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6501

Dear Air & Space Force Junior ROTC Cadets

Greetings and welcome back to a new school year and thank you for choosing to be a part of Air or Space Force Junior ROTC (AF/SF JROTC). I'm Lieutenant Colonel Mathew Tipton, and I have the privilege of being your AF/SF JROTC Director. It is an honor to join this incredible team of motivated, talented military retirees, active Air Guard and Reserve instructors leading you 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 Johnny McGonigal for everything he did for AFJROTC. He was a visionary leader who embraced our world of constant change and challenges.

I've been on active duty for 21 years after commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University of Alabama in 2003. 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 76 professionals here at headquarters, along with an extremely talented team of nearly 1,800 instructors around the world, that are committed to our mission of "*developing citizens of character.*" 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 with class and pride you maybe cannot even begin to yet imagine.

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

MATTHEW E. TIPTON, Lt Col, USAF
Director, HQ Air Force Junior ROTC