

Cape Canaveral Chapter

Florida Tech ROTC Commissions three new Army Lieutenants

The Florida Institute of Technology Army ROTC Panther Battalion held their spring commissioning ceremony for three new Army Second Lieutenants on Friday, December 12th. The ceremony was held in the Student Union Building on the Florida Tech campus. The new Lieutenants took their commissioning oath of office and pinned on new “gold bars”—the rank insignia of Second Lieutenants in the ceremony. Families, friends, ROTC instructors, and other cadets were present to witness the event. All three of the new Army Officers completed requirements to graduate with bachelor’s degrees at the Florida Tech Commencement Ceremony held on December 13th. In the commissioning ceremony, they heard messages and congratulations from the President of Florida Tech, John Nicklow (Ph.D.), and the Guest Speaker was, Lt. Commander Amir Pishdad Jr (USN SEAL, Retired), one of our MOAACC Speakers.

The new Army Second Lieutenants, Florida Tech Graduates, new MOAA and Cape Canaveral Chapter Members are:

- Jaden A. Krekow— Graduated with a bachelor’s degree in computer science. He attended High School in Dallas, Tx. He was the top cadet at Florida Tech and was selected to attend the George C. Marshall Leadership Seminar for top cadets from across the nation. He was also a MOAA Award and MG Cleland Bugler Award recipient while a cadet, both sponsored by the Chapter. Jaden was commissioned as an active-duty officer in Military Intelligence, detailed to the Infantry.
- Julia M. Krekow—Graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate (Top 20% of all cadets) with a bachelor’s degree in oceanography. She attended High School in Wheaton, Il. She was commissioned as an active duty. Military Intelligence Officer.
- Manuel Salvador E. Villamor--Graduated with a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering. He attended High School in Junction City, Ks. He was commissioned as a National Guard Officer in the Signal branch.

LTC Rob Stillings, Florida Tech Professor of Military Science (PMS), also congratulated the new Lieutenants. Colonel Steve Bond, US Army-Retired, Past President of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC), and current President of the MOAA Florida Council was on hand congratulate the new officers and present them with “Gold Bar” commissioning sets provided by the chapter, and their membership in MOAA and the Cape Canaveral Chapter.



Photo Caption: Commissioning Ceremony for New Army 2nd Lieutenants (Center), with Florida Tech, ROTC cadre, and MOAACC members at the Florida Tech Commissioning Ceremony on December 12th. (Left to Right) Guest Speaker, Lt. Commander Amir Phisdad Jr. (USN SEAL, Ret); Joe Matthews, ROTC Instructor; Colonel Steve Bond (USA, Ret), MOAACC; MAJ Matthew Evans, Ass't Professor of Military Science, SFC Jason Watson, ROTC Instructor; CPT Zachery Smith, Ass't PMS; 2LT Stephen Wortendyke. Recruiting Officer; Ms. Dana Washington, Human Resources Assistant; Florida Tech President, John Nicklow, Ph.D.; LTC Rob Stillings, Professor of Military Science; and Gary Eppler (USAF, Ret), MOAACC.



Photo Caption: Commissioning Guest Speaker, Lt. Commander Amir Pishdad (USN SEAL, Ret).



Photo Caption: Display Case in the Florida Tech ROTC Building with 2LT Rank designated for each Cadet in the Florida Tech Program, as encouragement to as the sign says: “Earn This!” The display case and rank insignia were funded by the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation. The rank is pinned on during the Commissioning Ceremony and is as part of the Gold Bar package presented by MOAACC that includes other rank insignia, a congratulation card, and membership in MOAA and the Chapter.