



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN HEATHER REDMAN

Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team spins its rifles to perfection during visit

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The sound and rhythm of cadence made by spinning rifles and timed stomps was heard Tuesday afternoon as the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team performed their 16-man routine in front of 27th Fighter Wing Headquarters.

The drill team is from Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., home of the 11th Wing, which houses the Air Force Honor Guard and the Air Force Band.

The team is the traveling component of the Honor Guard and was at Cannon as part of their 2007 Desert Tour which will take them to bases around the southwest such as Nellis AFB, Nev., Kirtland AFB, N.M., and Luke AFB, Ariz., as well as various public and school performances along the way.

Tuesday's performance was part of a two-day stop in the Cannon area. On Monday, the drill team performed at Clovis Community College and Clovis High School.

The Air Force JROTC commander at the high school, retired Col. Philip Frazee, helped arrange the performance at the high school. He said the performance was not just important for JROTC members but for the high school population in general, because it "heightens their perception of the Air Force as a personal career choice."

"I wanted to show them that the Air Force can spin rifles with the best of them," said Mr. Frazee.

Although the guardsmen make it look simple, tossing functional M1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonets through the air is no easy feat.

"We train for eight to 10 hours a day," said Master Sgt. Jacob Pullin, the Honor Guard Drill Team chief. "Safety is key to everything we do."

Sergeant Pullin has been with the Air Force Honor Guard for about three years and before joining the team was stationed at Andrews AFB, Md.

"Coming from Andrews I've seen a lot of history, I've flown with presidents, but nothing compares to being with the Honor Guard," said Sergeant Pullin. "I have the ability to represent the Air Force with the best Airmen the Air Force has to offer."

Ninety percent of the Honor Guard's focus is on the drill team, but this is only a part of the mission, said Sergeant Pullin. The Honor Guard also renders military honors at Arlington National Cemetery and represents the Air Force in official events and ceremonies.

Eighty-five to 90 percent of the Honor Guard are first term Airmen

directly out of basic military training. However, Airmen can still apply for the drill team by going to www.drillteam.af.mil and visiting the recruiting page where Airmen can fill out the necessary paperwork to show their interest in joining.

To volunteer for the Honor Guard at Cannon, Airmen can go through their chain of command and take the necessary steps to contact the Honor Guard.

Some of the traits the Cannon Honor Guard looks for includes coordination, military bearing and a positive attitude, said Staff Sgt. Ross Lindeman, assistant NCO in charge of the base honor guard.

The base honor guard is a volunteer position, though sometimes Airmen are asked to join, and, if selected, Airmen sign up for one year and would rotate on a month by month basis, one month on and one month off.

Airmen that are interested in filling out an application for the Cannon Honor Guard or want more information, they can go to Bldg. 1249, the same building as the post office and Airman's Attic, or contact them at 784-6996.



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PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS RUSTI CARAKER



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Above: Air Force Honor Guardsman 1st Lt. Joshua Hawkins walks through a gauntlet of spinning rifles and bayonets at a demonstration at 27th Fighter Wing Headquarters Tuesday. Left: During the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team's performances, the Airmen maintain their bearing by ignoring any distractions around them.

Above: The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team performs at 27th Fighter Wing Headquarters Tuesday. The Drill Team is the traveling component of the Air Force Honor Guard and tours Air Force bases world wide showcasing the precision of today's Air Force to recruit, retain and inspire Airmen for the Air Force mission.

Right: Clovis Community College hosted a performance of the honor guard Monday. The honor guard visited Cannon Monday and Tuesday to perform at CCC, Clovis High School and as well as on base.