Introduction
AFROTC is an educational program designed to provide college students an opportunity to earn an Air or Space Force commission as a Second Lieutenant while completing the university requirements for a bachelor’s or master’s degree. The program provides the necessary leadership training and skills required to lead Airmen and Guardians of the Air or Space Forces. Upon successful completion of AFROTC and graduation from the university, cadets will be commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the Air or Space Force, Air or Space Force Reserves, or Air National Guard.

History at UT
On September 18 1947, the United States Air Force became a separate and equal branch in the Department of Defense. After World War II, General Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the General Order No. 124 which established Army Air Force ROTC detachments at 77 universities and colleges across the nation. With the establishment of the US Air Force, these detachments became separate from Army ROTC. In 1947, one of the new units was Detachment 800 at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Over the next several years, AFROTC continued to grow in numbers of cadets and locations across the country. By 1973, active duty Air Force enlisted men and women pursuing a college degree could compete for the AFROTC Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program to earn a commission.

Since 1993, AFROTC has been aligned under the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Headquarters. Air Force Officer Training and Accessions, aligned AFROTC and Officer Training School under Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. Today, AFROTC has four region headquarters with 145 detachments and over 900 crosstown universities across the United States and Puerto Rico.

For over 80 years, Detachment 800 has trained Air and Space Force officers that are known to come a university rich in history both academically and militarily. Volunteers have served their nation in every war from the French and Indian War to the Global War on Terror. Each cadet from UTK, from 1844 to the present, has one thing in common…THEY VOLUNTEERED!
Purpose
AFROTC is designed to recruit, inspire, mentor, educate, and commission officer candidates as the Air and Space Force’s future leaders through college campus programs around the country.

The objectives of the program are to provide student cadets with a strong foundation of leadership attributes and an understanding of the fundamental concepts and principles of military art and science; to develop a basic understanding of associated professional knowledge; to inculcate a strong sense of personal integrity, honor, and individual responsibility; to foster an appreciation of the requirements for national security; and to establish a sound basis for the student cadets’ future professional development.

Following successful completion of AFROTC, all newly commissioned officers are required to serve in the Air or Space Force for a period of four to eight years pending their service commitment. The obligation may be fulfilled through a combination of active duty and/or service as a citizen Airmen or Guardian in the Air National Guard, Air or Space Force Reserve, or Individual Ready Reserves.

In college and after graduation, cadets find their AFROTC training and experience are tangible assets—whether they pursue a 20-year military career, or only serve the required active duty service commitment. Civilian employers place a high regard on the discipline, management and leadership qualities acquired from AFROTC and military service.
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Air Force ROTC program is authorized 6 total personnel which consist of six uniformed Service Members (6). In addition, we have one University employee (1).
*Effective 01-OCT-2022*