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Profile of a Cadet: Anissa Garnsey



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As a Senior Member for the last four years I have not participated in many cadet activities. Yet when I have joined in with the cadets for an event, I been impressed with the high interest, motivation, and discipline demonstrated by many cadets. Here is a profile on one outstanding cadet. I met Cadet/SSgt. Anissa Garnsey for the first time rather briefly while she was participating as a wreath layer in the Wreaths Across America program at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Cemetery in Schuylerville, NY.

Fast-forward 10 months, I again encounter Cadet Garnsey participating in the Mid Eastern New York Group's Wreaths Across America planning committee. As a committee member I was pleased that a cadet volunteered for this committee but I was quietly concerned if a cadet could transition from the wreath laying activity to the Mid Eastern Group planning committee. I still did not know Cadet Garnsey's capabilities. But it was obvious to me that her facial expression and body language and overall confidence screamed "I'm ready...I want to help." After several committee meetings the committee quickly realized that Anissa was not only highly motivated but demonstrated very strong verbal and planning skills. Many of her suggestions and her work product were actually incorporated into the Mid Eastern Group Wreaths Across America final program. Due to her "real world" committee work, Cadet Garnsey was selected by the committee to deliver the ceremonial address at the December 11, 2010 Wreaths Across America program. She accepted the assignment and delivered the ceremonial address with impeccable timing and poise.

You may be surprised to learn that Cadet Garnsey is 15 years old. She lives in Gansevoort, NY, with her parents, Rich and Shannon, and three siblings. Cadet Garnsey is currently a Staff Sergeant in the Orion Composite Squadron in Queensbury, New York. Cadet Garnsey recently told me that "...CAP has become a big part of my life and has given me many opportunities that I might never have had at this age. I attended the Civil Air Patrol's New York Wing Encampment at Stratton Air National Guard Base in Schenectady, NY, during the 2009 Encampment. While at the encampment, I attended many leadership classes and participated in various training exercises. The encampment improved my leadership skills and was a very positive experience for me. I thoroughly enjoy the CAP program and the chance to learn about leadership, integrity, respect, excellence and volunteer service."

According to Captain Beth Mabie, Orion Composite Squadron Commander, Cadet Garnsey is self-motivated, goal-oriented, is always willing to take on projects, has the ability to present her own ideas clearly and fluidly and is a fun person to be with.

Cadet Garnsey is home schooled and will graduate from high school in 2011. She is also enrolled in College Prep High School courses through the American School of Lansing, Illinois. Following her high school graduation, she will vacation in the Caribbean island country of St. Martin with her grandparents. Anissa especially enjoys the Saturdays that she spends helping her grandmother at the family store, The Pennywise Shop, in Greenwich, NY. "I always meet such a variety of interesting people while I'm at the store" says Anissa.

Cadet Garnsey also told me that she plans to further her education by enrolling for online college courses in criminal justice. In the future, she would like to join the United States Air Force and take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the Air Force. She also intends to follow a career in law enforcement after her Air Force experience.