

Thank you to the Omaha SAME post for sponsoring me to attend the SAME/USFA engineering camp. I am very grateful for the opportunity, and have learned a great deal from the activities I participated in. My Flight and I started engineering activities as soon as we arrived at the Academy campus with the construction of a tension tower. We used this tower, as well as a bucket of supplies to demonstrate as many laws of science and physics that we knew.



The concepts of tension and compression came in extremely useful in the second challenge during which we designed and created a sixteen foot long concrete beam. We left the beams to cure until the final day. The tension towers and presentations were ranked after the beam construction event. Once completed, we attended dinner and a presentation from an Air Force General who encouraged us to think imaginatively and creatively in all the challenges we would face.

There were two other major challenges later in the week. The largest was the dog house construction. The challenge: given a limited amount of materials, design and construct a medium and extra-large dog house. To add to the difficulty, it was decided that the roofs of the houses should be made removable so that the owners could clean them more easily. We took a little longer than we had hoped but we finished our houses in time for them to join the others in being sent to the Colorado Springs Humane Society to help house dogs whose families cannot provide adequate shelter for them. One of my Flight's houses, however, took a different

trip. Instead of going to the Humane Society, it traveled with one of our Flight Advisors back to her home in Montana to be used for her dog.

The second most difficult challenge was the Engineering Reaction Course. This was a series of situations designed to simulate a situation in which an engineer in the Air Force might someday find themselves. My Flight did everything from evading simulated enemy patrols while crossing land mine fields, to building real gliders in an attempt to send a message to a friendly squadron on the other side of an enemy group. I learned a tremendous deal from both of these activities and the other smaller challenges we took on.



I feel that this camp has solidified my choice to become an engineer and increased my interest in attending a Service Academy. Again I am extremely grateful for this opportunity that I have been granted and hope that the future recipients will learn as much from it as I did.

Joe Coldiron
SAME Engineering and Construction Camp Nominee, 2015

I had a really great time at camp. Thank you so much for the sponsorship and opportunity to explore what engineers do. This experience will definitely help me to make a decision on my future career. The camp provided me an amazing opportunity to meet people from all around the United States, make new friends, and learn about engineering and construction.



My favorite event was building and destroying the concrete beams. I loved designing them and testing the beams. The hardest thing for me was the tension tower. My flight and I just couldn't figure out how to build a self-standing tension tower. The materials we were given were hard to use and building a tension tower is complicated. I loved the flight system and all the people I got to meet. The instructors were great and were all very helpful and it was good getting to know some current engineers and even some people who go the academy.

Thank you Society of American Military Engineers

*-Greg Cross
SAME Engineering and Construction Camp Nominee,
2015*

