



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE EXPLORERS

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Peoria Cadet Selected for U.S. Naval Academy

Goldwater ANGB, Phoenix, AZ – Headquarters USAF Explorers announces the Nomination of C/WO John J. Clark of the 396th Aircrew Training Squadron (396ATRS) to the United States Naval Academy Class of 2028 on behalf of Arizona Senator Mark Kelly.

Cadet Clark serves as an Inactive Reserve officer assigned in the Flight Operations section as the Assistant Flight Safety Officer. He is a graduate of Peoria High School in the top 5th of his class. A stellar student, athlete, and JROTC cadet, John was a leader in many different organizations during his High School years. Ranked in the top of his class, John was also recognized at graduation as one of a few student speakers at the commencement ceremony held at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, AZ. Four-year standout varsity letter swimmer, he also was a team captain his Junior and Senior year. In addition, he was a leader and member of several different clubs in school, all while holding down a part time job as a groundkeeper at a local golf course.

He was Cadet Squadron Commander of AZ-083 Peoria Panthers AFJROTC for his Senior year while additionally a C/CAPT in the Glendale Composite Squadron 308 of the Civil Air Patrol while also a cadet with the USAF Explorers.

Wanting to strive for the most knowledge and ability to grow to serve his nation in uniform, John was also a rated FAA Private Pilot license holder. As one of his personal goals for 2023, he wanted to obtain his license before the end of the year. Achieving that goal on Wednesday, December 27th at Glendale Municipal Airport with his father in attendance at the airfield.

John desires to become a Naval Aviator hoping to fly the F-35C Lightning II carrier-based fighter.

