



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE EXPLORERS

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Litchfield Park Cadet Selected for U.S. Air Force Academy

Goldwater ANGB, Phoenix, AZ – Headquarters USAF Explorers announces the Appointment of C/2LT Ruben D. Saavedra of the 396th Aircrew Training Squadron (396ATRS) to the United States Air Force Academy Class of 2028 on behalf of Arizona Congresswoman Debbie Lesko.

Cadet Saavedra serves as an Inactive Reserve Officer assigned in the Logistics section as Assistant Services Officer. As a graduate of Millenium High School in the top 5 of his class. A stellar student and athlete, Ruben was a leader in many different facets during his High School years. Ranked at the top of his class, Cadet Saavedra was also recognized at graduation as one of a few student speakers at the commencement ceremony.

A 4-year standout varsity letter tennis player in addition to being Team Captain his Senior year. AZ Prep Academic 2024 1st Team in Cross Country with a 4.72 weighted GPA; AZ Prep Academic 2024 & 2023 1st Team Tennis 4.86 weighted GPA and 4.67 weighted GPA; state ranked Cross Country Runner in addition to several events in Track and Field for his school.

In the summer of 2023, Cadet Saavedra attended the USAF Aim High Flight Academy at Oklahoma State University to learn about FAA Flight and Ground School to see if he would be interested in becoming a USAF Pilot. At the conclusion of his training Cadet Saavedra had logged over 15 hours in a single engine aircraft under the instruction of an FAA Certified Flight Instructor (CFI). This helped fuel his dream of attending the U.S. Air Force Academy in the hopes of commissioning in 2028 on his way to become an F-35A pilot in the USAF.

