



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**AFROTC DET 165**

21 January 2022

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AFROTC Detachment 165  
151 6th Street North West  
Atlanta GA 30332

To whom it may concern

It is my distinct pleasure to offer my strongest possible recommendation for Cadet Catherine Schlabach to be recognized by the Society of American Military Engineers. Having spent over 18 years in the United States Air Force I have had the opportunity to work with an assortment of tremendously talented individuals. As the Professor of Air Force Aerospace Studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology, I have been able to directly observe Cadet Schlabach's leadership, teamwork, and commitment to excellence during Leadership Laboratory and other military training events.

After attending one of General John W. Raymond's engagements during his visit to Georgia Tech in the Spring of 2020, Cadet Schlabach was inspired to join AFROTC the following fall semester. She entered the program as an AS250 and immediately demonstrated exceptional potential. During one of the toughest Professional Officer Course Selection Process in recent history, she was one of three AS250's selected at my detachment. While at Field Training 2021, she earned Distinguished Graduate and ranked #32 of 552 with only one year of AFROTC experience in a group that comprised primarily of deferred cadets (AS300 level) with at least twice the amount of experience as her. Additionally, her leadership, professionalism, and potential as an officer earned her my Commander In-college Scholarship. She is the #1 cadet out of 15 in the AS300 class.

In addition to a proven record of performance, Cadet Schlabach continues to thrive in and out of the program. She maintains an impressive 3.57 GPA and has made the Dean's List seven out of nine semesters. Cadet Schlabach came into the program physically fit but continues to improve her score inching closer to maxing with a 99.0 on her most recent fitness assessment. Last semester, she absolutely thrived as a flight commander and also led our 10-person honor guard team. Under her command, our honor guard supported five high-profile events for over 100K total attendees. Cadet Schlabach was selected to lead a detachment tour for the Space Force's Director of Staff and also accompanied the Lt Gen while on a university partnership engagement. Her outstanding professionalism earned her the 3-Star's coin and praise. Also as a result of her involvement in the visit, she was selected for a research position with the university in the Space System Design Lab with the goal of operating a fully Georgia Tech-developed satellite that will deploy from the International Space Station in February.

Cadet Schlabach exemplifies the qualities that align with the Department of the Air Force and personifies the greatest traits of an outstanding American military engineer. I am excited to see how much she continues to grow and thrive in her future endeavors. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance or provide additional information regarding this outstanding student.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cumings", is written over a horizontal line.

DAVID A. CUMINGS, Lt Col, USAF  
Commander