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UTSA AIR FORCE ROTC CADETS AND OFFICERS CELEBRATE 59 YEARS OF CLIMBING INTO THE WILD BLUE YONDER

(SAN ANTONIO) – On September 18, UTSA Air Force ROTC Detachment 842 cadets and officers passed out cake to students, faculty and staff in honor of the founding of the United States Air Force 59 years ago. Founded by President Harry S. Truman, the Air Force was created under the National Security Act of 1947.

“We wanted to celebrate this milestone in order that our cadets understand where we came from,” said UTSA Air Force ROTC Commander Colonel Lisa Firmin. “When they enter active duty as officers, we want them to appreciate the sacrifices of those who came before them so that they can continue to contribute to our rich heritage and serve this great nation.”

In the 59 years since its inception, the Air Force has faced many military challenges including the Berlin Airlift, Korea’s MIG Alley and Vietnam’s Thud Ridge. The Berlin Airlift occurred less than one year after the formation of the Air Force, and successfully served as the major transporter of food and supplies to the German people in response to the Soviet Union’s blockade of Berlin shortly after World War II.

Currently the UTSA Air Force ROTC Detachment 842 consists of 173 students and is the second largest in the State of Texas. Each year Detachment 842 commissions 25 to 35 new Air Force officers. In 2005, the U.S. Air Force invested \$600,000 in scholarships for UTSA Air Force ROTC cadets.

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