



## **TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AVIATION & STEM TRAINING PROGRAM**

### **RED TAIL NEWS**

*Special Edition*

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## ***Tuskegee Airmen Aviation and STEM Training (TAAST) Cadets selected as nominees to U.S. Air Force Academy***

One of the objectives of TAAST is to excite and motivate our youth to experience and gain knowledge about the aerospace and STEM industries. For one week every summer, it endeavors to instill in high school-aged students an appreciation for the academic skills, moral character, proper conduct, dedication and discipline necessary to succeed. Our primary sponsors, Delta Air Lines and Lockheed Martin have provided various means of support which have allowed the program to accomplish its goals and be a huge success.



*TAAST cadet, Devin Broxton at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center in 2017*

### ***Nominees***

On Saturday, February 3, 2018, U.S. Congressman David Scott hosted the 2018 Thirteenth Congressional District Military Academy Nomination Ceremony at Brawner Hall in Smyrna, Georgia. During the ceremony, 33 students received nominations based upon a combination of academic achievement, leadership performance and athletic participation.

Three TAAST cadets received this distinguished nomination to the U.S. Air Force Academy from Congressman Scott. Congratulations to TAAST cadets, Devin Broxton, Jeriah-Lynne Dimaranan and Kwabena Kumi-Ansu pictured to the right with Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen, Dr. Hillard Pouncy.



## ***2018 U.S. Air Force Academy TAAST Cadet Nominees***

Devin Broxton attends Woodland High School in Henry County, Georgia. He has been a participant in the ACTAI TAAST program for the past four (4) years. In an email, Devin's mother, Brigette Broxton, wrote the following: "... It is because of Devin's participation in the Tuskegee Airmen Aviation and Career Training Camp that he was exposed to and has gained a love for Aviation". Devin is a licensed pilot and is the embodiment of the TAAST program. As this is Devin's senior year, we look forward to his final year of participation in the 2018 TAAST program.

Gold Star Family member Jeriah-Lynn Dimaranan's father lost his life while serving in Afghanistan. Jeriah was a 2016 participant of the TAAST program. In her essay which was required for selection to the program, Jeriah wrote that "Without delay, women of the Tuskegee Experience are my lionhearted inspiration". This outstanding young lady attends Mundy's Mill High School in Clayton County, Georgia.

Mundy's Mill High School student, Kwabena Kumi-Ansu participated in the 2016 TAAST program. In his required essay, Kwabena wrote why he wanted to be a pilot: "I wanted to undertake an adventurous and challenging job, which requires continuous learning and hard work..." This nomination is the result of Kwabena's willingness to work hard and unwavering commitment.

## ***Congratulations and Gratitude***



Congratulations to each of these remarkable students. This outstanding achievement exemplifies their hard work, dedication, and the necessary moral character required to succeed. Their commitment, academic skills, conduct and discipline demonstrate the goals set forth by the ACTAI TAAST program.

*Above: Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen, Dr. Hillard Pouncy, Piper Burks, Nominees Devin Broxton, Jeriah-Lynn Dimaranan (front), Kwabena Kumi-Ansu, Channing Gray and Wanda Hightower.*

**TAAST Director, Capt. Tony Holder extends his sincerest congratulations to Cadet Devin Broxton, Cadet Jeriah-Lynn, Cadet Kwabena Kumi-Ansu and their proud families. By their nomination of appointment to the prestigious U.S. Air Force Academy, these three cadets are indicative of the aspirations of the TAAST program. Through the sponsorship and support of our donors, TAAST will continue to accomplish its goals. It will continue to educate young men and women who will someday serve our country with the knowledge, skills and leadership ability garnered by going through our program. All members of the TAAST Committee wish to say to each of you, job well done!**



*Above, left to right: Broxton family members, sister and father, Dana Broxton. DOTA Dr. Hillard Pouncy, Piper Burks, Nominee/Cadet Devon Broxton; Emmanuel Kumi-Ansu and son, Nominee/Cadet Kwabena Kumi-Ansu; Wanda Hightower, Brigette Broxton (mother of Devin), Capt. Tony Holder; front: Nominee/Cadet Jeriah Dimaranan and her mother Maria Dimaranan.*



*Above, left to right: Dr. Hillard Pouncy, Capt. Tony Holder, Wanda Hightower and Greg Grant*

**A special thank you to:**

**Dr. Hillard Pouncy,  
Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen**

**Capt. Anthony Holder (FedEx Retd),  
ACTAI EYC Committee Chair and TAAST Dir.**

**Ms. Wanda Hightower,  
ACTAI TAAST Associate Director and PR Officer**

**ACTAI TAAST Committee Members**

**Ms. Piper Burks**

**Mr. Gregory Grant**

**Mr. Stan Coleman, Photographer**