



ALLIE THURAU

OUTDOOR RECREATION
PROGRAMMER

Q: What's your position?

A: I'm the Outdoor Recreation Programmer.

Q: How long have you worked here?

A: Almost four years now.

Q: What made you choose this job?

A: I had just wanted something that was a little bit more active. So, I saw this and it sounded really interesting. I didn't actually know a ton about Outdoor Recreation before I started working here, so it was kind of a fun surprise. The rental part is cool and everything, I learned a lot about the equipment. Boats specifically, I learned a lot more about boats. But the outdoor adventure section of it was really cool to be a part of.

Q: What does the 'outdoor adventure section' entail?

A: So my job specifically is, I plan trips for the Airmen. Outings; it could be on-base activities, it could be local activities or it could be traveling as well. We do a little bit more of the high adrenaline activities because people in this area, it's just they're bored and that's something exciting. So that's kind of more of what we focus on. That could be sky-diving, white water rafting, bicycling and scuba diving is a big one. Stuff like that.

Q: What do you like most about your job?

A: Definitely the trips. Also seeing the Airmen when they go on the trips is pretty cool too. A lot of times it's the first time they've experienced some-

thing like that [the trip]. We usually do some pretty unique things so, hearing from them, enjoying the activity or getting out of their comfort zone is cool. We had a guy who was terrified of heights and we went on a canyoneering trip, he repelled down a 150-foot waterfall. That was really cool to see him overcome.

Q: You go on some of the trips?

A: Yeah. I have to lead the trips. We drive the buses, we transport all the Airmen and, a lot of the time, we chaperone the trips.

Q: What's the most interesting thing to happen to you while working here [at Outdoor Rec]?

A: I feel like a lot of interesting things happen in this job. Anything new could happen each day especially with trips. Cause you're not always doing the same things over and over again. I think skydiving was a pretty unique experience for everyone that was involved. We drove to Oklahoma and we got to skydive out of a little Cessna and everyone there, it was their first time skydiving. That was probably something I'll never forget.

Q: Did you skydive as well?

A: Yeah.

Q: Is there anything you find challenging about this [Outdoor Rec] job?

A: Yeah, I mean sometimes it can be difficult. I mean, holiday weekends are always busy, everyone wants boats and campers for their activities so that can sometimes be stressful. Sometimes coordinating with the companies and with hotels can get pretty wild. Especially if we're going on a busy weekend for other people and we're bringing a larger group of 20 people.

Q: Do you have anything you want people to know?

A: I think people should utilize Outdoor Rec more. I know a lot of people have come here for their out-processing and been like, "I didn't even know this was here." And they miss out on a lot of the cool things that we have to offer here. So I just hope that we could get the word out more so that young Airmen especially, that are in the dorms, can be able to utilize this facility.



“Yeah. Yeah I’m fine. Don’t worry about me.” (laughs) Because they were in the middle of an exercise and they’re in that super serious mode and I’m just like a clown in the background who just fell down.

Q: What do you find to be challenging about being a part of PA?

A: It’s always hard to find the right angle to a story. Whether it be through writing a feature article, a hard news article, a photo story or a video. It’s always hard to find a correct way you want to express that story because different mediums present different challenges. They also, in a way, target different audiences. Because some people don’t like watching long videos and some people don’t like to read. I think that’s the most difficult part about it.

Q: Is this the job you wanted when you joined the Air Force?

A: Public Affairs was my first choice. This is the job I wanted.

Q: Where do you aspire to be in this job?

A: There’s so many jobs in Public Affairs in general that each base is different. And even some bases have entirely different job sets. So, I would like to experience every form of this job that I can. It’s cool to be part of a Wing PA, but, I always like to expand my horizons even further, and try out everything that this AFSOC has to offer.

Q: Do you have any favorite photos you can remember taking?

A: My favorite photo is the one that we recently posted on our Social Medias. It was of an MST member – it was during Coyote Dicer – and they’re doing this exercise where they’re bringing in a person of interest, because they found him, captured him and are bringing him into this building. And I’m right behind the door next to this MST member to take the photo. I got the MST member with his patch [on his arm] in it, so it could show it was an MST member. That MST is capable of doing these kinds of missions sets as well as what their base missions is too. That’s a really good photo because there’s green smoke in the photo and it just seems like a combat photo. An active combat photo even though it’s all training.

Q: We know that PA covers things from Photo-Ops to ‘Cannon All’ emails, what else do you all do?

A: Honestly, wherever there’s a story to tell about the mission or about AFSOC’s or Colonel Taylor’s intent, we’re there to tell that story for them.

Q: Do you have a current role-model; a supervisor, team member, celebrity, etc.?

A: I’m inspired by everybody. (laughs) But a role-model, it depends on what. This is irrelevant to my job, but I want to be a New York Times Best Selling Author. So, everyone who’s been a New York Times Best Selling Author inspires and is my role-model to be them. I think Neil Gaiman. He’s a really good writer.

Q: Do you have any job requests that you enjoy taking more than others?

A: I like documenting the exercises. Especially at Melrose. Because when you’re at Melrose, you’re really just focused on documenting the exercise. You don’t really have to worry about what’s going on at the office. It’s always great to have that time essentially to yourself, even though you’re surrounded by other people of the mission, you’re doing that job by yourself.

Q: Are there any special events that you’ve been to that have left an impression on you?

A: I covered the Christmas event from last year. When they we’re doing the tree lighting. I went to that and they had a part where – Christmas is a time when you’re with your family – and there was a part where a military spouse was there but her partner wasn’t, I think they were deployed or something, and Colonel Taylor brought her and her kid up to put a wreath on the tree. Now that I think about it, that’s my favorite photo. Because it’s just a reminder that there’s people out there that aren’t with their families right now. And it’s nice that we constantly have reminders that there are people who are gone, whether physically or because they passed because they paid the ultimate sacrifice or they’re just out there doing the mission keeping everyone safe.

Q: What does it entail to be a PA Specialist?

A: So it entails a lot of things. The broad idea of Public Affairs is to share the base’s mission to whoever the target audience would be. Whether it would be something high-profile that would go to the eyes of congress members or elected leaders or to small things that are relevant to other Airmen on base or civilians outside of base.

Q: What is one of your highlight job requests/ memorable moments?

A: So we document a lot of exercises. And it’s always nice to go out to MAFR [Melrose Air Force Range]. A memorable moment from one of those, it’s not very professional, but I fell down. Down the stairs. I slid right down them. (laughs) It’s just funny to me that it happened.

Q: Did anybody see you fall?

A: No. So we had ‘Green Berets’ there [at the range] and when I fell, the one Green Beret that was near me, he comes out of nowhere, he was like, “Are you okay?” and I’m on the floor like,