



Captain Rachel C. Dryhurst

United States Air Force

Military Mentor

Capt. Rachel Dryhurst is the Signature Management Officer at the Air Force Sensitive Activities Office. Prior to this assignment, Capt. Dryhurst served as the Chief of Influence Operations (IFO) ensuring strategic messaging across the Korean Peninsula supported priorities for United States Forces- Korea. In preparation for this tour, Capt. Dryhurst was selected for the U.S. Army's Psychological Operations Qualification Course taught by 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), as one of three Air Force members selected to attend for 2020. Prior to her tour in Korea, Capt. Dryhurst served as an Information Operations (IO) Planner at the 618th Air Operations Center (AOC), where she applied Operational Security (OPSEC) and Signature Management, supporting and protecting all Mobility Air Forces' missions. Capt. Dryhurst has been the recipient of the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the 2020 Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Military Information Support Operation Officer of the Year, the 607 AOC Strategy Company Grade Officer of the Quarter for 2019, the Air Mobility Command OPSEC Planner of the Year 2019, and 618 AOC Strategy Company Grade Officer of the Year 2019.



Capt. Dryhurst attended Rockbridge County High School in Lexington, Virginia where she graduated with Honors. During her high school career, she served as a National Honor Society Co-President, played soccer, ran track and field, and was voted Best Sense of Humor in her 2013 graduating class.

Capt. Dryhurst was commissioned in 2017 as a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program at The Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in Lexington, Virginia. Capt. Dryhurst graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a double minor in Leadership Studies and Colonial American History. She commissioned as a 14F, or Information Operations Officer. In her sophomore year of college, Capt. Dryhurst was awarded an ROTC Scholarship. She went on to become the Wing Vice and then Wing Commander of her ROTC unit during her senior year at VMI.

Prior to entering active duty Capt. Dryhurst was employed in the Admissions Office at VMI helping to educate young men and women about VMI. This was not Capt. Dryhurst's first exposure to working with high school students. Before working in Admissions, she served as a Summer Transition Program (STP) Counselor for two years. The program allows pre-matriculated cadets to acclimate to college coursework, and the workout schedule expected of them when school is in session. Capt. Dryhurst describes her time as a counselor as the most rewarding position she held, above being the first female master sergeant in VMI's history during her junior year, and the second battalion executive officer during her senior year.

Capt. Dryhurst applied to become a United States Senate Youth Program Mentor to help instill in future leaders a curiosity of the unknown and a desire to seek out truth and understanding rather than blind acceptance for the way things have always been. Capt. Dryhurst believes that future leaders, or those who truly involve themselves in their community, have to be aware and recognize that they don't know everything and, by extension, must have a desire to continue learning at every stage in life. She hopes that students will use the opportunity to expand their mindsets and beliefs, and that her experience can be shared through group discussions, activities, and events.