

22 Thoughts of a Doolie

What is a Doolie? It's that insignificant whose rank is measured in negative units; one whose potential for learning is unlimited; one whose days until graduation approach infinity; a fourth class cadet.

As the academic year begins, here are some of the unavoidable feelings of Doolie experiences at USAFA:

1. Running the strip for the first time
2. Trying to find all your classes in Fairchild
3. Once you find all your classes, and realize they really weren't kidding when depicting to you the rigor of the academics
4. Eating a meal not at attention for the first time in Mitchell Hall and almost wishing you still weren't allowed to look at your food
5. Meeting your training staff for the first time
6. Not being permitted to close your door until ACQ
7. "I get to sleep-in so much longer than in Basic, this is great!"
8. Parents Weekend: An important milestone, to see the pride on their faces is indescribable. And you get to revert to being a kid for three days
9. "Oh yeah, I've got the knowledge test under control – no worries Coach."
10. Texts: "Yo who's at CQ?" Calls: "Yo who's at CQ?" Knocks on door: "Yo who's at CQ?" Climbs through window: "Yo who's at CQ?"
11. No music? That's OK, I'll just make my own. Have fun listening through my perpetually open door
12. How you feel after an intense training session
13. When you greet someone properly in the halls all by yourself for the first time
14. When you're on the strips and an upperclassman tells you to have a nice day
15. EI on the 6th floor
16. As soon as you hear the words "hall brawl" you're in the hallway despite the fact that it may be 1am and you have two GRs tomorrow
17. Trying to find a car to borrow for the weekend
18. Having to make the most of your restriction
19. Going home for the first time and having homemade food
20. Coming back from Thanksgiving break to finish off the last couple weeks of the semester
21. Leaving for Christmas knowing you have your first semester behind you and almost three weeks of break ahead of you
22. Coming back from break and realizing ... Recognition is upon us