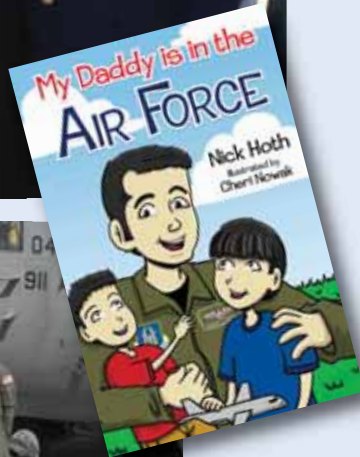


Nick Hoth

By Paula Green



Twenty-eight-year-old, Nick Hoth is a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He is a Ross Township native who graduated from North Hills High School in 2000. He went to Community College of the Air Force where he earned an associate degree in Aviation Operations in 2005. Hoth then attended Robert Morris University where he graduated in 2007 with a B.A. in applied psychology and minor in sociology.

He enlisted in the Air Force in 2002 and did his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) in Texas. Hoth was commissioned through Officer Training School (OTS) at Maxwell AFB, Ala., in 2010.

"I decided to enlist because all of my life my dad was in the Air Force. I remember running around his base in Homestead, FL, and later when we moved to Pittsburgh. I also remember playing on planes and pretending I was a pilot.

"When I was struggling through college after high school, I knew something was missing. I went to my dad and told him I was thinking of leaving school and enlisting in the Air Force. He backed me up and took me to his unit and introduced me to a couple of people to get an idea of what I wanted to do. I had narrowed it down to becoming a loadmaster on C130's at my dad's unit when The Towers (The World Trade Center) fell. A week later, I was taking the test and going through the medical screening and finally sworn in on Apr. 1, 2002," Hoth said.

In addition to his military duties, Hoth can now list "author" to his credentials. He has recently published a heart-warming, children's book called *My Daddy is in the Air Force*.

"I was away in flying training and up late night studying when I started to think about my family. I thought about how I was missing my sons growing up and how I used to be in the same situation.

"I remember thinking a children's book explaining why parents had to go away would be a great idea. Something easy to read and I would base it on my experiences as a kid and a father. I used my psychology background to write it in a way that kids would understand. The whole process took around six months from start to finish," Hoth said.

Hoth and his wife, Casey, live in Hopewell Twp. They are the proud parents of two boys, Parker (2) and Camden (1). He dedicated his book to the both of his sons. His parents are Joanne and Dale Hoth, and he has one sister named Jodi.

Hoth plans to continue his military career. "JFK once said, 'Being in the military is not a job, it's a way of life.' I truly believe in that. When I put on my uniform I don't see myself going to some job. I see myself doing what comes natural. I am proud to live in this country and I am proud to serve and to be able to give something back," Hoth said.

Northern Connection magazine salutes 2nd Lieutenant Nick Hoth for his dedication and commitment to serving his country in the United States Air Force. ▲

We welcome brief biographies and photos of local servicemen and women from our community. If you know of someone you'd like to see featured in this column, please call (724) 940-2444 or mail the information to: Northern Connection Magazine, P.O. Box 722, Wexford, PA 15090-0722 or email northcon@nauticom.net.

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