



The Eagle times

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Commander's Corner: Be a Leader of Character

LTC Mark W. Johnson, Professor of Military Science

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf once said, "Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. If you must be without one, be without the strategy." This general is one of the more outspoken leaders the Army has produced recently, but fortunately he usually has good things to say. In this case he is remarking on what characteristics a leader needs to be successful. General Schwarzkopf says you need two things: strategy and character. By strategy, he means a leader's vision for the future, which is where you want your unit to go and how you are going to get it there.

The other element of leadership is character. General Schwarzkopf is not alone in stressing the importance of character for Army leaders. Indeed, the Army's field manual on leadership states that character, a person's moral and ethical qualities, helps determine what is right and gives a leader the motivation to do what is appropriate, regardless of the circumstances. An informed ethical conscience consistent with the Army Values strengthens leaders to make the right choices when faced with tough issues. We call this having the ability to choose the harder right over the easier wrong. And since Army leaders seek to do what is right and inspire others to do the same, they must first embody these values.

Remember that General Schwarzkopf stated that if you can only have one, it is better to have character without strategy than to have strategy without character. I would also add that officers receive a lot of help from their sergeants and other subordinates in determining the right strategy for their unit. But during your commissioned careers you will find that your character is something for which you alone are responsible.

That is why I considered it my most important duty to ensure that each cadet in the Eagle Battalion possess the character required of Army officers. An officer's character is the most important resource they have as they make difficult decisions in violent and sometimes deadly environments. You must understand that the character you develop and hone in ROTC, the formative years of your military careers, is all the character you get—you won't receive any "character reinforcements" at a later date.

Some of you may wonder why being a leader of character in the Army is so important for an officer. I'll let another distinguished Army leader, this time General of the Army Omar Bradley, answer that one:

The American soldier is a proud one and he demands professional competence in his leaders. In battle, he wants to know that the job is going to be done right, with no unnecessary casualties. The noncommissioned officer wearing the chevron is supposed to be the best soldier in the platoon and he is supposed to know how to perform all the duties expected of his soldiers. The American soldier expects his sergeant to be able to teach him how to do his job. And he expects even more from his officers.



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Future Army Branches

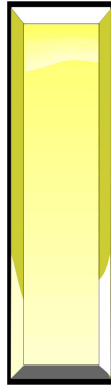
CDT Flancher (Active Duty): Finance Corps, detailed to Infantry for first assignment

CDT Hamilton (Army National Guard): Medical Service Corps

CDT Thomson (Active Duty): Corps of Engineers

CDT Veloz (Active Duty): Military Intelligence, detailed to Infantry for first assignment

Mr. Wolfe (Active Duty): Armor



CDT Girolamo (Active Duty): Military Police Corps

CDT Hesse (Active Duty): Military Intelligence

CDT Hanson (Active Duty): Army Nurse Corps

CDT Sorenson (Active Duty): Transportation Corps

CDT Vick (U.S. Army Reserve): Medical Service Corps

The Path to an Army Chaplain

CDT Deters

So you have felt the calling to serve both God and country by serving as an Army Chaplain? Wonderful! There are a few details you need to know in order to decide if this branch is for you. Why would anyone care to be a military chaplain, rather than the civilian equivalent? First, the pay is better, but more importantly, the benefits are outstanding. Very few pastors and priests get the chance to minister to a more receptive and hungry crowd than our nation's finest young sons and daughters. In these trying times for our nation's armed forces, the need for spiritual guidance and leadership has never been greater. The responsibilities are great, but the rewards are indescribable.

Precisely because the demands are so great, only the most qualified candidates are accepted into the Army Chaplain Corps. Before you are allowed to dawn the title chaplain, you must obtain an ecclesiastical endorsement from your faith group certifying that you are a member of the faith and denomination, qualified spiritually, morally, intellectually, and emotionally to serve, and able to be sensitive to other religions, religious practices and beliefs. You must possess both a baccalaureate degree and a graduate degree in theological studies. You must also complete the rigorous Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course after obtaining your commission. If this is sounding like something that you might be able and willing to do please visit <http://www.goarmy.com/chaplain/> for more details.

Being an SMP Cadet in ROTC

CDT Wolfe

As an SMP (Simultaneous Membership Program) cadet you are in both ROTC and either the Reserves or the National Guard. The SMP can be for both prior service and non-prior service cadets. The SMP could be for you depending on your future aspirations and the level of involvement you are willing to put in. SFC Mortimer is the National Guard Liaison here at UW-La Crosse. He would be able to help any cadet with questions about joining the National Guard or being an SMP cadet.

If you are already in the Guard or Reserves and wish to go active duty you can choose to stay with your unit until you commission and then transition into active duty if you are accessed high enough. For those contracted cadets who know they want to go Guard or Reserve your ROTC scholarship can be converted to a GFRD scholarship and you can start drilling

with a unit. Being in Guard or Reserves you can pick what type of unit you want to be in, as long as they have a position available.

Financially being an SMP cadet can be great. Prior service cadets wishing to go active get all of their college benefits from enlisting, the ROTC stipend, and E-5 drill pay; but they do not receive any type of scholarship. Cadets wishing to go Guard or Reserves can take the GFRD scholarship, keep any benefits they've earned from enlisting, get the ROTC stipend, and make E-5 drill pay.

Being an SMP cadet does give you more responsibilities though. In your unit your commander will expect you to fill in positions that are not filled so you might end up an acting platoon leader which comes with a lot of extra work and responsibilities. Your unit's and ROTC's training sometimes overlaps which just needs to be worked through with your commander and PMS.

CTLT at Fort Polk, LA

CDT Sphychalla

After LDAC this Summer I had the honor of attending CTLT (Cadet Troop Lead Training) at Fort Polk, Louisiana, for three weeks. CTLT is designed to give cadets a chance to experience being a junior officer in an established, functioning Army unit. My unit was B Troop, 3-89 Cavalry, part of the 10th Mountain Division. For the first three days I was in "the Box," Ft. Polk's giant JRTC (Joint Readiness Training Center). At JRTC, units rehearse tactics and procedures they will use in deployment. The training area is complete with life-like cities, farm animals, role-playing villagers, and enemy. I was with 2LT Manuel, who showed me how they evaluate and critique the units, and had me evaluate a couple of missions.

Once I had completed my days in the Box, I was introduced to my platoon.

Their platoon leader was 2LT Manuel, who was in the process of transferring to A Troop to become their new XO, and so I got to fill in for him as the acting platoon leader. I spent most of my time with my platoon working closely with my platoon sergeant to create and run a PT schedule, perform weekly maintenance, complete training, run an M16 and M19/240B range, and inventory an LRAS (Long Range Advanced Scout Surveillance) and ITAS (Improved Target Acquisition Sight) system.

The experience I got from this

this training was invaluable and has given me a new perspective on life in the military outside of ROTC. I made some great connections, and I highly recommend everyone volunteer for CTLT.



DCLT at Fort Leonard Wood, MI

CDT FLancher

Summer training is where all the fun happens in an ROTC career (well, most of the fun at least). This past summer I was able to experience the coolest summer training event around—Drill Cadet Leadership Training (DCLT).

DCLT is not for the faint of heart. You are assigned to a Basic Training unit and serve as a platoon leader/executive officer for a company. I was lucky enough to be assigned to Charlie Company, 31st Engineer Battalion, located in a beautiful area at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. During my three weeks there, I was able to do things never imagined. There were drill sergeants who answered any question I threw at them. I even had a first

lieutenant who was able to help me understand what life is really like for a young officer in the army.

I was able to work as an assistant to company XO, learning the ins and outs of what that position entails. I was able to become a platoon leader and see how the relationship between a platoon leader and the platoon sergeant develops. But the best part of my time at Ft. Leonard Wood was being able to sit in the classes that the privates were taking, learn some of the skills they were learning, and, of course, apply those skills in a training environment. Nowhere else but at DCLT would I have been able to detonate explosives and send a 500-pound concrete block into outer space.

If you want to learn more about the Army, if you want to better understand what your future soldiers have gone through, or even if you just want the opportunity to de-

stroy a block of concrete, there is no doubt that DCLT is an experience you should not turn down. I highly recommend that as many cadets as possible attend DCLT so they can have as good of a learning opportunity as I had.



CTLT at Fort Campbell, KY

CDT Hesse

This summer I attended Cadet Troop Leading (CTLT) at Fort Campbell, KY, from 13 to 31 July. While there I shadowed a first lieutenant from 626 BSB, Charlie Company, a medical service unit. My service at Ft. Campbell was interesting because this brigade will deploy to Afghanistan in January and all tasks are focused on preparing them for that mission so a lot of their tasks were specifically to prepare them for Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Ft. Polk, LA.

I was able to assist in the planning and running of a M4 zero and qualification range. I helped to prep the range by doing a route recon, as our company would be road marching to the site, and getting a layout of the range itself. The day of the range I was in charge ensuring the part of the company I was with made it to the range and keep the lieutenant updated as to where we were on our route. This was

a great learning point as I got to experience all the preparation that goes into planning a range and to see how it is executed.

I also attended a battalion FTX where I focused on the responsibilities of the S2 (intelligence officer) and S6 (communications officer). I also assisted in preparing an intelligence brief for convoys headed out on missions. The TOC then sprang into action as the convoys headed out and they started to encounter the enemy. I was able to take a closer look at the Blue Force Tracker and see how to communicate with the convoys. Blue Force Tracker is a GPS system that is able to provide the military with the location of not only friendly, but also hostile forces. This system allows the user to see a map of an area and denote positions of friendly and enemy forces. The user can also communicate via text/email messages or images and also receive them from the convoys. This system is very useful in determining route planning and possible plans of attack.

I spent a day following the battalion

S6, setting up ports and telephone lines for rear detachment that would stay behind when the rest of the brigade deployed. I shadowed a SIGNAT platoon leader, (a military intelligence officer focused on the communications aspect), and help break down a communication site and got to interact with her platoon. I also participated in a run with the Brigade Commander, who welcomed us to 3rd brigade. We were also given the opportunity to attend officer PT with the battalion and see what sort of things they make new lieutenants do.

CTLT offered me an excellent opportunity to see what my future might hold for me. The company commander worked with me to ensure that I was given ample opportunity to see all branches that I was interested in. Every cadet should take the chance and see what is out there.

Summer Experience at West Point



CDT Foley

June 16th approached faster than I anticipated. After all the preparation and anxiety, I was finally about to discover what CFT (Cadet Field Training)

from June 16th-July 17th. I presumed it to be a beneficial preparation for next summer at LDAC and for my future in the "real" army.

We arrived at West Point on a sunny day and the campus was breath-taking; tall, stone buildings stand in bluffs that overlook the winding Hudson River. We didn't settle long at the West Point campus, however; we left for Camp Buckner the following day; it would be our home for the coming month. Think back on a year of ROTC training and imagine compiling all of that instruction into a month during the summer (rather than 2 hours each Thursday); that's what the Buckner experience was similar to. We were always on the move! Our training included obstacle courses, water obstacle course, confidence course, two 10k timed runs, ruck marches, patrolling, marksmanship with a M-4, land navigation, PT, NCO academy, shooting mortar rounds, and we also spent a day each with some of the combat branches (Artillery, Armor, Engineer, etc).

After about 10 days at Camp Buckner, our company was bused down to Fort Knox. We spent about 4 days with the Armor branch; most of us got the experience of being a tank commander and a gunner on a real tank. It was pretty HOOAH!

(From Summer Experience, page 4)

At the very end of the month our company had the Land Navigation rotation. We spent the first two days in the field primarily doing navigation classes and practicing within our squads. The third day we tested on a 10 point day course and a 5 point night course; it was cer-

tainly an adventure! We were trucked back to our barracks after our night land navigation test and the next day we concluded our experience with “Camp Illumination”, the Camp Buckner Dance.

There were certainly rough situations throughout the month

(sleeping in a swamp), but there were also a lot of good memories and lasting friendships that were made. Although I didn’t get many leadership opportunities, I believe the training prepared me for challenges that lie ahead.

AMEDD Internship in HAWAII

CDT Strobush

The Army Medical Department (AMEDD) internship is an opportunity for cadets interested in Army medical fields (other than nursing) to get a taste of the hospital lifestyle. Tripler Army Medical Center, on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, provides the perfect environment for cadets to experience what a possible future medical career might be like. Not only do the cadets get to see different aspects and programs of the hospital, but they get to enjoy the beautiful island.

I was fortunate to have such an experience. At the hospital, I was assigned to the General Surgery Department. I was in the hospital for 8-12 hours a day during the week. During this time, I would either be in a clinical setting or in the operating room. I was able to follow surgeons around and participate in their work. Dur-

ing surgeries, I would be able to scrub in and help out. Some examples of the things I was able to do are suturing, holding surgical tools, inserting needles, and inserting a catheter—all under the supervision of a physician. One day I was able to experience the Labor and Delivery unit. There I was able to participate in the delivery of several babies via traditional birth and a C-section.

Outside of the hospital, other cadets and I were able to explore the island. We traveled to several different beaches, experienced a luau, climbed historic Diamond Head, and visited Pearl Harbor. My

favorite doctor was Colonel Curry. He provided me with the best experience of both the island and the hospital. The hospital is huge and provides care to all services of military. The island itself is remarkable, and I couldn’t have asked for a better place for an internship.



H1N1: What is it and how to stay protected

CDT Staads

H1N1, informally known as the swine flu, is a form of the influenza virus. This specific strand is more alarming than the seasonal flu in that it has affected people younger than 25 at a higher rate than the common flu. Because of this, it is important for everyone to take steps to protect themselves.

The most important thing that you can do to stay protected is wash your hands frequently and thoroughly. Wash your hands often with soap or water, or use an alcohol rub. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, as these are com-

mon places for germs to enter your body.

H1N1 is spread mainly from person to person through sneezing and coughing. You may also acquire it by touching a surface and then touching your nose or mouth.

H1N1 produces the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, diarrhea, and vomiting. If you start feeling any of these symptoms, it is very important that you visit your local clinic or hospital. Beyond that, the best course of action is to stay home. The Centers for Disease Control recommends that if you are sick with flu-like symptoms to stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, venturing out only to get medical atten-

tion. Rest and allow your body to fight the virus. Also, do not forget to stay hydrated, especially if you are experiencing diarrhea and vomiting.

To prevent the acquiring and spread of any virus, the most important thing you can do for yourself and others around you is to wash your hands, and wash them frequently. If you come down with flu-like symptoms, protect yourself and others by getting medical attention and then staying home to recover.

AMEDD Internship Experience - Heidelberg, Germany

CDT Girolamo

A few months into the spring 2009 semester, I applied for an Army Medical Department (AMEDD) internship in hopes that I would be able to spend some time in Heidelberg, Germany, immersing myself in the daily life of an officer in a medical unit. Being a psychology major, I wanted to spend part of my summer after LDAC learning about the duties of Army psychologists. A few months after applying, I found out I was selected for the internship slot.

The flight was long, but well worth it. After a day of in processing, I began working with staff members from different departments of the hospital every day. I spent time in areas such as the acute care clinic, pediatrics, radiology, physical therapy, and occupa-



tional therapy. I met with a number of social workers and psychologists, and was even able to observe a few minor surgeries.

A few other interesting things I was able to do was get a tour of Landstuhl Army Medical Center, which is where most of our wounded soldiers go before they are transported back to the United States. One morning I observed a five-hour event that

trained the soldiers and doctors in Heidelberg on how to react to a mass casualty/terrorist attack. It wasn't fun getting up at 5:30 on a Saturday morning, but it was defiantly worth it and it was really interesting to see just how efficient the Army can be on a moment's notice.

My internship in Germany was one of the best experiences of my life, and I believe that it will prove to be very useful in the decisions I make in my military career.

Inspired by Patriotism, Cadets Reach out on Campus

CDT Thomson

On three consecutive days during the first week of the fall semester at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, cadets from all classes in the Eagle Battalion ROTC program displayed their patriotism as they supported three "red, white and blue" events held by other organizations on campus.

On September 10th, the UW-L College Republicans hosted the fourth annual Never Forget Project in commemoration of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. With the help of many cadets outfitted in ACUs, the two groups planted 2,993 small American flags around the permanent September 11th, 2001 Memorial Garden on campus, each one honoring someone who died that day. The colorful display flew proudly throughout the weekend and not only marked the national day of remembrance, but also served as a salute to our military today, fighting overseas to ensure our freedom at home.

The following afternoon on Patriot Day, Eagle Battalion cadets volunteered to help the New Student Orientation committee officially welcome students, athletes, and faculty members to the new academic year and UW-L's 100th anniversary. The celebration began with a moment of silence to show respect for the 9/11 terrorist attacks, followed by the playing of the national anthem in front of the battalion's color guard. Other ROTC members served as ushers for the event, as well as fans for CDTs

Jon Flancher and Jason Church, both starters on the varsity football squad.

In culmination of the patriotic weekend, cadets returned to the UW-L Veteran's Memorial Field Sports Complex on the morning of September 12th, to participate in the dedication ceremony of the newly constructed stadium. Before the Eagle football team took the field, led by Flancher (a senior defensive end) on defense and Church (a junior fullback) on offense, numerous Eagle Battalion members stepped on the new turf first carrying a giant American flag stretching from the 50 yard line to the north end zone. Alongside other Veterans from the La Crosse community, the group presented the colors high over their heads as the national anthem played over the loud speaker.

As the afternoon came to an end, and the crowd in the bleachers celebrated the football teams first home win of the young season, all members of the Eagle Battalion could rest assured knowing that their outreach to the campus community reflected the Army Values.



First FTX Experience

CDT Nygaard

This fall FTX (field training exercises) was a blast! We fired M16s, did squad airsoft assaults, climbed some obstacle courses and crawled around in the mud. If I could do an FTX every weekend, I would. Going into it, I had fired a weapon one other time, so the M16 was very new to me.



We got out to the range, put our earplugs in and waited for the signal; my heart was beating out of my chest and my palms were sweating, I squeezed the trigger and BAM! *I just shot an M16!* Was my first thought; it was nothing like I had expected. It was so much more fun! After that we moved off to airsoft location, and got beat by the Op 4 men. Learning from our mistakes, Bravo company proceeded to teach Alpha a lesson in airsoft tactics. Next was the obstacle course, where we flew through monkey bars, rope bridges, running logs, semi-mazes, and lots of other things. As hard as it was, it was incredibly fun. Everyone did really well and finished the course in a really good time. Then we had some delicious lunch with our MREs and all of Bravo company. Depending on which meal

you get, you could have an absolutely delicious meal or a really not-so-good meal. Mine, was amazing! After the chow, we did confidence course activities, which were similar to the obstacle course; however, it wasn't in a competition setting. That was fun team bonding and confidence building, while doing some lightweight physical activities. My favorite part of the weekend had to be firing the M16 and squad airsoft. It was just such a rush to shoot the M16 and when I got my score from the range back, I was absolutely astonished by how well I had done. The airsoft was simply fun. We didn't exactly know what we were doing, but received guidance and were able to adjust our plan to be successful. All in all, the weekend was amazingly fun.

Interview with Cadet Wolfe

CDT Vick

Every cadet in the nation spends their MS-III year training for one thing... Warrior Forge, an intense 28 days of physical and mental tests that show each of us what we are made of. Most cadets who accept the challenge do just fine receiving a satisfactory evaluation for their performance. However, there are those who go that do more than just satisfactory. They run faster, work harder, push forward, and come out on the other side on top. UWL senior Scott Wolfe did just that this summer by being named one of the top 24 cadets in the nation that attended Warrior Forge; he was selected as the 2nd best cadet in his own regiment. After having some time to reflect on his success I sat down with him and we talked about some of the things he did to prepare and some of the advice he had for future cadets.

Q: What are some of the things you did



to prepare for the physical and mental aspects of Warrior Forge?

A: Besides going to Tuesday and Thursday PT I workout on my own Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I get a better workout if I'm not held back by those who aren't that good at PT. Every workout I did at least my maximum sit-ups. I also worked on doing pull-ups. I know they aren't apart of the PT test, but I feel they really help me do push-ups.

Mentally, I made sure I was confident about all of the battle drills used in STX and patrolling. If you can comfortably teach your squad how to do each battle drill, you will be ready to lead your squad at Warrior Forge. I practiced writing and briefing OPODs enough so that when I gave my OPODs at LDAC I didn't rush and miss any parts.

Q: What was the hardest part about it?

A: Dealing with other cadets was probably the hardest part about LDAC. Not every cadet was at the same level, so some things that I thought were simple tasks weren't so simple to others. Every squad has at least one "spotlight ranger," someone who works hard only when they are in charge. Being able to deal with them and still work with them was the most challenging. focus on to achieve the same success you worked so hard for?

(From Interview with Cadet Wolfe, Page 7)

Q: What would you tell future cadets to focus on to achieve the same success you worked so hard for?

A: Make sure you are at your physical peak at LDAC. Work for your squad. If you do everything you can to help someone earn an "Exceeds Standards" on their evaluation they will do the same thing for you. Learn from the other cadets in your squad. Everyone has their strengths so learn from their successes. On the other side, learn from their mistakes. Talk to the cadet that you just replaced. Find out what the TAC said he needed to work on so you don't make those same mistakes. The biggest thing to focus on is staying calm under pressure and being able

to act. Things don't always go the way you planned, but being able to adapt is what evaluators are looking for.

Cadet Wolfe recently found out that he is guaranteed his branch of choice when he commissions in the summer of 2010, as will UW-L senior cadet William "Billy" Thomson. Of the 4,400+ cadets nationwide who will receive their commissions this year, Cadets Thomson and Wolfe both ranked in the top 200. This is entirely due to their hard work, dedication, drive to be among the best cadets in the nation. They have raised the bar for all of those who come after them, both as individuals and as teammates in the ROTC program here at UW-L.

NCO's Corner: First Four Months

MSG Heise

Four months ago, I was a little apprehensive about moving from my home in Manhattan, Kansas to La Crosse, Wisconsin. What was I in for? What challenges and rewards would my new assignment bring?

I arrived at Eagle Battalion just in time for the State High School track meet and was immediately immersed into what is uniquely Wisconsin... "don'tcha know," "amazing," "alrighty then," "OK now," "bubbler," "stop-n-go lights," and of course the mighty cheese curd – breaded, fried, or fresh... and let's not forget the fests... every town has one... the applefest, cornfest, honeyfest, and of course – Oktoberfest!

This hasn't been like moving to a new state – but more like moving to a new country! Amazing!

Having spent my career as a combat medic, I found that I was in way over my head when it was expected that I understand basic infantry tactics and Officership... What??? It is as if I went from working for Legos to working for NASA; from simple colors and shapes to rocket

science. But don'tcha know, I am catching on - and I owe it to all of you in Eagle Battalion! I have learned Team wedge, Squad column, traveling overwatch, and incredibly enough, I even learned the parts of an M240B (well, most of them). Sometimes we find ourselves out of our element – but in the end, we rise to the challenge and exploit our strengths for the good of the group. We are a team and we will succeed as a team.

I have a sense of humor, and I like to joke around, but when all is said and done, I have a mission. My mission is to influence the cadets of Eagle Battalion to become the very best officers they can be – to become the finest leaders in the United States Army. Throughout my career, I have experienced some of the best – and the worst – officers to be commissioned through ROTC. Graduating college and squeaking through ROTC does not qualify a young man or woman to lead Soldiers. Leading Soldiers is a privilege and an honor – lives are in your charge and expectations exist...

My mission is to watch you each receive your commission and to truly want to follow you; anything less is not acceptable. "Embrace the Ruck!"

