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Commander's Corner



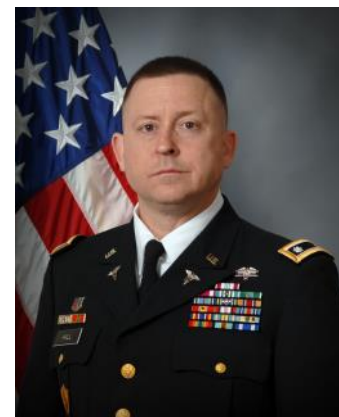
Professor of Military Science

LTC James Hill

What are ethics in the Army today? Cadet Command defines ethics as “the principles or standards of behavior that guide professionals to do what is right or good. Ethical leaders do the right things for the right reasons, even when no one is watching.” That is a fair summary of ethics from an Army perspective, but how does each person determine what is right or good? Understanding what is right or good is something that a person learns throughout their lives. It is a reflection of how they have been raised as a child; what they learned in school, from their peers, and from their religious beliefs (for some); and how events in their lives have shaped their understanding of truth and what is right and good. Clearly what is right and good is not exactly the same for everyone, but as a society, Americans agree on what is right and good through a democratically elected republic. Laws are passed and upheld

to define what is right and wrong, from a legal perspective. Aside from that, most Americans expect that other Americans will do the right thing for the right reasons. That is why when some Americans do not act that way there is outrage, condemnation, and vilification. It is from this basic premise that Soldiers understand ethics while they serve in the Army.

Why are ethics important in the Army today? Having a good understanding of ethical behavior helps individuals make sound decisions in their lives. This is especially important for Soldiers in the Army because often they are in leadership positions, and while in those positions they serve as role models for those they lead. In “What does Contemporary Science Say about Ethical Leadership?”, Christopher M. Barnes and Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Doty note, “Leaders at all levels set the ethical tone for subordinates in their units either by omission or com-



mission and have a significant impact on how their subordinates act and perform.” This idea is echoed in Cadet Command instruction to cadets in the following manner, “You teach by example, and coach along the way. When you hold yourself and your subordinates to the highest ethical standards, you reinforce the values those standards embody.” This is an excellent teaching point and something to continually reflect upon in your future Army careers.

The importance of ethics in the Army today is frequently discussed because there are many examples where Soldiers, regardless of rank or position, fail to lead ethical lives. For example, recently retired General David Petraeus admitted having a potentially compromising marital affair while he was the Director of

Commander's Corner cont.

LTC James Hill

Eagle Battalion Commander

Director of the CIA. His affair is a personal matter, and one that he states did not occur while he was in uniform. However, his affair also provides insight into how a highly revered, former senior Army officer considered ethics and what was right and wrong. After the affair was made public, he acknowledged that he had made a mistake and done something wrong.

Petraeus' well-publicized affair and public mea culpa reminded me of a comment Ross Perot made to a reporter during his 1992 Presidential campaign. When asked by a reporter why he fired one of his vice presidents at Electronic Data Services, his response was, "If a man's own wife cannot trust him, how can the American people? The family unit and solid ethics are the basis of America." There is a simplistic sense of truth to that statement and it hinges on the concept of trust. Soldiers have to trust one another and especially their leaders. They have to trust that they

are ethical and will always do the right thing and for the right reason. If they ever feel that those they are serving with are unethical and therefore not trustworthy, the unit with which they serve will be negatively impacted and the unit's mission could be compromised. The importance of teaching and training ethics to Soldiers (regardless of rank or position) is, therefore, important in the Army.

In fact, concern over how ethics are discussed and taught in the Army has lately become a focus for the Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta. In "Pentagon to Review Ethical Standards," Thom Shanker and Elisabeth Bumiller noted the following from Mr. Panetta, "The fundamental mission of the Department of Defense is to protect the nation. Any behavior that negatively impacts our ability to perform that mission is unacceptable." It is clear that Mr. Panetta sees the detrimental effects of unethical behavior. His interest in ethics violations is piqued because in addition to investigating retired General Petraeus' infidelity while in uniform, he has had to contend with fraudulent use of govern-

ment funds by both General William Ward (former AFRICOM CDR) and Admiral James Stavridis (Supreme Allied Commander of NATO), and sexual misconduct charges against Brigadier General Jeffrey Sinclair.

Although these few examples are senior military officers, ethical violations are not service or rank specific but are an increasing concern in the military today. There are numerous examples each day of officer and enlisted service members that commit ethics violations. To counter this apparent slip of ethics in the Army, Cadets in the Reserve Officer Training Corps need to always lead ethical lives. They need to remember that as future Army leaders they will be leading by example, and they will be showing those they lead how to do the right thing and for the right reasons. As leaders, we need to help those we lead to modify unethical behaviors and show them how to lead ethical lives. Soldiers want and need ethical leadership and the American public expects nothing less. Do not disappoint either of them; be an ethical leader!

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Senior Military Instructor

MSG Scott Heise

Precision.

What a simple word. On reflection, what does it mean to be precise, and more importantly, when is precision warranted?

According to Merriam Webster dictionary, precise is defined as:

- 1: exactly or sharply defined or stated
- 2: minutely exact
- 3: strictly conforming to a pattern, standard, or convention

Throughout our careers we will receive orders to execute some mission or complete some task:

Do this task in this order...

Place your awards on your uniform like so...

Move from this point at this time...

Be at that point at that time...

Say this command like so...

Load the patient like so...

Etc...

On the surface, these instructions lack

emphasis; there are no qualifying instructions, no degree of specificity or exactness established – just an order given or a task assigned. It is implied that we will execute the task to the most exact, or precise, manner possible. Nobody assigns someone a task with the expectation of receiving incomplete or haphazard work – precision, or conforming to a standard, is understood. When you were a child and your parent asked you to clean your room, you weren't told to clean everything except the dirty clothes and the scattered toys... It was understood that you were to clean or tidy up your entire room.

Throughout the year, I try to impress upon the MSIIIs the need to be precise in their work, especially their map reading. The reality is that we are expected to be precise in everything we do. Imagine our military if we didn't instill precision through disciplined training.... How precise should you be with your weapon, your scalpel, your pen, or your orders? How imprecise do you expect your subordinates to be when carrying out your orders? It is my guess that you will want your orders carried out in a military manner – precisely.

The Profession of Arms demands precision. We must be precise in our actions and our words. If we are sloppy in our actions, or words, we may very well compromise our mission.



When you get the chance, ask an MSIII to explain precision...



Drill Cadet Leadership Training (DCLT)

CDT Dat Dang

Cadet S-1/S-2

Drill Cadet Leadership Training (DCLT) is a four week program that allows third year cadets to observe Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) and develop leadership in a basic training environment. I was fortunate enough to be assigned to the 701 Military Police Battalion for follow on training. After successfully completing Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), I flew out to Ft Leonard-Wood, MO to conduct training with the Echo Company *Enforcers*. At DCLT, I observed talented drill sergeants lead trainees in instruction and provide specialized guidance to the newest members of the U.S. Army. When not observing training, I carried out duties as the acting Executive Officer (XO) and assisted the headquarters element.

Like most other days at basic training, the morning starts with rigorous Physical Readiness Training (PRT). The Army is thoroughly invested in transitioning trainees to become fit and combat effective. As such, PRT is a method of conducting standardized physical training in a large group with minimal involvement of trainers. Though the PRT method is new to the Army, many of the physical exercises are the same. The time honored tradition of cadence is maintained across the field of events. As a cadet, I participated in PRT and learned of its effectiveness in fitness.

Following PRT, trainees conducted skills training in a classroom or field environment in order to become qualified in tasks and skills that were tested at the end of each week. The drill sergeants kept a watchful eye and conducted the majority of the training. They were the subject matter experts

on skills necessary to become an MP in the U.S. Army. The NCOs always kept the mentality that their trainees could deploy following basic training and maintained a high level of discipline and professionalism.



On many occasions, I followed the First Sergeant during his inspection of the barracks and the training area. He impressed upon me the importance of the initial phases of a trainee's exposure to the military life. I watched the methods of additional training and re-training as drill sergeants broke down the individual mentality of each trainee and rebuilt them into Soldiers. As the less dedicated and unmotivated fell the wayside, I watched a well groomed and ready class of Soldiers graduate Basic Combat Training with pride and respect.

DCLT developed me as a future leader by placing me in the initial training phase of each enlisted Soldier in the Army. By learning the specifics of basic training as well as being mentored by excellent NCOs, I became more confident in my future as a pla-

toon leader and came to appreciate the training that the drill sergeants provided. I have great confidence in these Soldiers and I hope to work with them in the future.

Operation CULP: Missions to Tanzania and Georgia

CDT Sean McCarthy

Cadet S-3

Reserve officer training corps (ROTC) cadets have a unique opportunity to travel to over 40 countries around the world during their summer to learn about different cultures and broaden their perspective through the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) program. All expenses are paid by the Army and the program offers tremendous rewards in the form of experiences; all you need is three weeks out of your summer and the willingness to be open to new cultures and ideas. This past summer, Cadets Melissa Linden, Erin Schneider, and Ashley Janovick each took the opportunity to participate in the program.



CDT Schneider traveled to the Republic of Georgia and had the opportunity to be immersed into a different culture. She recalls her favorite part of the mission as, "Visiting the military base in Georgia in which we met Marines and Army soldiers who were there after their main elements had been deployed." She also got to teach and interact with Georgian kids, learning along with them. The experience also involved visiting the hospital in Georgia and a chance to stand in the Black Sea. Meanwhile, two other Eagle Battalion cadets were having experiences of their own in Africa.

CDT Janovick and Linden traveled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with a mission of teaching English to high school students. Most of the students could read and write English well, but lacked the experience speaking it. ROTC cadets helped develop the students' conversational skills simply by communicating with them about their cultures. Linden recalls from her experience, "The students asked questions ranging from politics, to pop culture, to healthcare in America. The students also taught us about their culture and the tribes they belong to. Spending time in another culture taught me to appreciate my own." Although Linden and Janovick were in Tanzania with a mission to teach others, they also learned much about the local culture and way of life. "We learned about the old African slave trade and the British and Germans who used to occupy a lot of the land", says Janovick. The mission wasn't all business; cadets went on multiple excursions including traveling to Mikumi National Park and going on a snorkeling adventure in the Indian Ocean.

The CULP program offers these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to cadets to aid in producing commissioned officers who possess the cultural skills required of Army officers in the world today. Janovick summarizes her experience by adding, "Cadets truly learned how to open their eyes, ears, and hearts when exploring new cultures and people."



Need A Summer Job: Try Army Airborne School

CDT Courtney Nygaard

Cadet Executive Officer

The Army has numerous specialty training schools for soldiers like airborne, air assault and mountain warfare. The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) can provide cadets



to attend these schools as well. The cadets go through a section process based off their physical fitness, academic performance, and overall ROTC performance. The University of Wisconsin La Crosse was privileged enough to have a cadet selected for one of these prestigious schools. Cadet (CDT) Kyle Kennedy was selected to attend the Army's airborne school from May 16th through June 8th of this year. CDT Kennedy recalls his first thought upon arriving at the training site at Fort Benning, Georgia: It was hot, not just hot. It was a thick humid heat that just sat in the air like a weight. Having not been prior enlisted, this was CDT Kennedy's first time on a military installation. Ft. Benning is home to thousands of soldiers with many preparing and returning from overseas; needless to say, it can be quite intimidating as a first time experience. As training commenced, CDT Kennedy learned the importance of battle buddies. Battle buddies are

basically a best friend that has your back no matter what the situation is: good or bad. CDT Kennedy's battle buddy was from New Jersey and was a huge asset from the "get go." The long days of training weren't so monotonous with CDT Oroho at his side. CDT Kennedy makes a good point, "It also never hurts having a close buddy to train with that you trust, especially when it comes to putting a parachute on your back that will keep you from falling to your death." As comical as that is, it's very true. The Army is a team based organization beginning with the battle buddy system.

CDT Kennedy reminisced about one of his favorite memories from training: his first jump from an airplane. He recalled the anxiety of getting on the plane with his squad, parachute on his back, sweat dripping down his temple and his heart racing. He was the last out of the plane. The air was whipping everything around him and out the hatch he went. He was weightless, floating like a bird, and surrounded by silence. It was peaceful, he thought. He executed a Parachute Landing Fall (PFL); meaning, he fell gracefully.

Coincidentally, CDT Kennedy remem-



bered the hardest thing of training was a PFL simulator. The device was run by a jumpmaster, which sporadically released the cadet two feet

above the ground, forcing them to respond accordingly. It was very difficult and frustrating, but with scraped legs, sweat and hard work, he excelled at it.

Finally, CDT Kennedy has some advice for a new cadet attending airborne school, "...is have thick skin. You're not going to get the respect you deserve right away and you can't let that affect you. You have to drive on and realize you're there to train... don't be shy." This is great advice for any new person coming into ROTC or the army. Respect is earned through performance and great performance is achieved by over coming fears, trying new things, and training hard. CDT Kennedy will never forget his experience at airborne school and will always have his badge to show he powered through the rigorous training.

The Challenges and Rewards Of Growing Up In A Military Family

CDT Cory Palumbo

Cadet

Adapting to change is the biggest thing in a military family, constantly moving and changing schools and leaving friends behind to turn around and make new ones is not always easy. Growing up in a military family the biggest thing in your life is your family.



My mother was honorably discharged from the Army right before I was born. Having my brother and myself to raise was a big enough task at the time. My father was recently commissioned in the Army after serving enlisted time and soon deployed due to operation dessert storm. As my brother and myself became older, my mother went to work as an occupational therapist assistant. My father soon received an Active Guard Reserve (AGR spot) in the Army, which is like Active Duty and required us to move from Syracuse, New York to Ft. Dix, New Jersey and leave our friends and what we knew behind.

We remained there for a few years and in that time my brother and I built friendships before moving again to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Living in three different places throughout my younger years was hard from the friend aspect of it all. I would meet people at school who were friends with each other from childhood and it was hard to get let in as the new guy. Then I would get in the group and make friends and then move again. My family became my main group of friends. This brought us together in ways most families will never come

close to. We always did things together and went on trips together. We helped each other with everything and always looked out for each other. Most people laughed when I told them I actually enjoyed spending time with my parents as a lot of teenager's despise their parents.

When my brother graduated high school and left for Valley Forge Military Academy it was hard on us. One of my best friends was gone. He became an officer in the military and inspired me to want to follow in his footsteps. As I always looked up to my mother and father for their service to our country, now my brother had become a military serviceman. I wanted other things after high school first but always intended on serving my country and in 2009 I enlisted in the Army.

Growing up in a military family, you have certain traits instilled within you from the beginning. I always knew right from wrong and my brother and I were rarely in trouble. We were disciplined for things we did that were minor and in turn, this helped keep us out of major trouble. Our TV and video game time was limited to one hour a day. We were always encouraged to get outside to exercise or use our imaginations for recreational fun, after finishing homework of course. With our parents' military mindsets, they always encouraged us to be active and eat healthy as well. For example, if I did not want to eat my vegetables then I did not eat. I was never starved, but I became smart enough to know if I wanted to get a good full meal I would have to eat my vegetables.

We had a curfew and lights out time every night at 8pm. This was in high school mind you, so that was inconvenient at times. One of the few exceptions to this rule was when we were working and that was for obvious reasons. In the morning I can remember whoever getting up first getting rights to the bathroom for a longer period of time. I used to hate when my father

would come in my room and put my lights on 45 minutes before I had to get up.

Being a part of a military family with a military mindset my entire life and now being in the military myself, it was easy for me to take advantage of doing an internship in Florida or moving to Massachusetts to go to flight school. I had no problem moving and expanding my horizons unlike many of my peers living in the same area their whole life never wanting to leave. They also lacked the discipline to cope with the many different challenges of life.

It was very hard at times to always be on the go and I always envied the bonds of my friends that I did not have from always moving. But I feel very cultured and think I know the world a little more and can easily adapt to my new environments. I find it easy to fit in anywhere now and am happy I grew up the way I did and have no regrets! Moving around so much and seeing so many different places and exploring what those places had to offer was truly amazing. My life was almost like a vacation, getting bored was never a feeling I felt growing up. I hope to continue to learn more from everywhere the Army takes me.



Outlaws!

CDT Benjamin Ziegler

Cadet S-4

Throughout LDAC, I had the comfort of knowing that upon graduation I would be boarding a plane to Germany. After a long flight and a slightly shorter drive I arrived in Bamberg. The Bamberg Inn (where I was billeting) seemed like pure luxury compared to the barracks at LDAC. I was with 3rd Plt. 541st Engineer Company (SAPPER) of the 54th Engineer Battalion. The first few days there were primarily in-processing, which included: drawing gear, counseling, and a welcome brief by Major General Piggee. At the end of the first week, we began a ten day training exercise. This was surprisingly like LDAC, but instead of going through the training I was watching it. Each squad in the Sapper Companies rotated through stations where they were evaluated on basic Sapper skills.



The 541st Engineer Company coin.

I spent most of my time on the route reconnaissance lane, but other lanes included: construct an 11-row obstacle, breach an 11-row obstacle, create a road crater, counter an improvised explosive device (IED), and urban breach. The create a road crater and urban breach lanes included the use of det cord, so I even got to watch some explosions. During the course of these



A “bird of prey” flying over the foothills of the Alps near Garmisch, Germany.

exercises I participated in two cadet led patrol bases, acting at the assistant patrol leader on both occasions. Following this training exercise we spent several days conducting recovery operations. This included weapons cleaning, vehicle inspections, and a complete inventory. After a relaxing weekend our focus shifted from basic Sapper tasks to route clearance. I also watched three platoons transition into two Route Clearance Packages (RCPs) as the 541st continued preparing to return to Afghanistan. RCPs are used to ensure roads are clear of mines and IEDs so that friendly forces can travel safely. This allowed me to learn how route clearance operations work and what training resources are available to prepare soldiers for this mission. My final weekend in Germany was spent sightseeing in Munich and Garmisch. This was followed by one last pre-maintenance inspection, out processing, and counseling. After three weeks with the 541st it was time to

come back and prepare for a new school year with Eagle Battalion.

Varsity Athletics: Cadets Excel Out of Uniform

CDT Jordan Henrikson

Cadet S-5

ROTC demands a lot of our time as Cadets. Whether it is Physical Readiness Training (PRT), labs, class, or other community service events, ROTC grabs the majority of our time. Try adding a collegiate varsity athletic sport on top of that. Of the 70 Cadets that are currently in Eagle Battalion, five of those cadets are varsity athletes: CDTs **Joseph Jordan** (Viterbo), **Kandyce Bragg** (Viterbo), and **Stephen Brunshidle** (UW-L) are all involved in Track & Field; CDT **Erin Schneider** is on



the Winona State Golf team, and CDT **Jordan Henrikson** is on the Winona State Cross Country team. These Cadets are just some of the few who have come through the program. One of our recent Hall Of Famers, now 2LT Bea Foley, who was known to set cross country courses on fire (metaphorically) all over the Midwest region.

These athletes' time management abilities are some of the best in the battalion; they need to be. They need to be able to set priorities and follow through with them. Finding the time to study or to complete homework in your dorm or in the library can be diffi-

cult, most of the time it has to be done on a bus on the way to a game or meet. Not only do these Cadets learn the different values of time management, they are exposed to different types of leadership within their sports. The leadership skills they learn within ROTC can be applied within their sport and vice versa. In some sports, football for example, the football field is the battlefield; your squad or platoon leader is the quarterback and you are the left or right tackle, and your main job is to protect your battle buddy. On the flip side, the different leadership skills athletes learn in their sports only help in the four-year process of becoming a leader in the United States Army.

Another major benefit of being a Cadet and an athlete is the extra physical fitness opportunities. During the typical week, PRT is held two to three times. Each session offering something different to the body, whether it is medical drags and carries, yoga, lifting, or cardiovascular. As an athlete, you get to double dip in physical fitness benefit pool, working out five to eight times a week on top of PRT. PRT in ROTC however provides opportuni-



ties for a wide range of workouts and environments. For example, you could be in the swimming pool on Tuesday and out running to the top of the bluffs on Thursday.

The sky is the limit as a future leader when you become involved with different programs that allow for the development of your leadership skills.



My Army Vacation: Hawaii Style

CDT Sam Kinsman

Alpha Company Cadet Commander

Cadet Troop Leader Training program is known as CTLT and takes place at many Army bases nationwide along with other key locations such as Germany and Korea. CTLT is an internship program and places cadets in Army units to learn the dynamics of being a lieutenant in the Army for three to five weeks. Cadets learn valuable skills and insight from the lieutenants they are placed with, along with learning other dynamics in the Army that will soon be very relevant in their careers.



Directly after finishing a tiring four weeks of training and evaluation at Leader Development and Assessment course (LDAC), I boarded my flight and mentally prepared myself for the second part of my exciting summer of training. The following three weeks I spent at CTLT in Hawaii at Schofield barracks, I was assigned to 225th brigade support battalion which was part of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th infantry division. This was a great learning experience for me, due to learning what is expected of lieutenants in real units and the dynamics of these units. I was required to attend company Physical Training PT five days a week, along with meetings Mondays mornings prior to PT. The lieutenant I was placed with was assigned to be in charge of water and fuel for second

platoon. During this time I was shadowing and acting as platoon leader and part of this was dealing with any issues that arises. I also conducted a sensitive items inventory at both the motor pool and motor park, ensuring all sensitive items were present and accounted for. Each day had new challenges and opportunities to gain experience and knowledge on what it is really like to be a platoon leader.

The lieutenant I was placed with for these three weeks was more than willing to answer question, along with trouble shoot any concerns I had about being platoon leader or Army life in general. My first Sergeant was female and this gave me a valuable opportunity to talk with her about being a female in a leadership position. She openly talked to me and the other cadets about being a female leader and the dynamics of even being a female in the Army.

CTLT wasn't all work, I was lucky enough to be there with a group of cadets that became close friends of mine. Turing time I was able to see Hawaii and take advantage of difficult hikes, swimming in the ocean, and volunteering to help clean up wet land areas. I also worked on completing homework and writing papers during free time.



Overall, I believe CTLT is a great opportunity for cadets to learn about being a platoon leader. I had plenty of work to do but did have some time to appreciate Hawaii and down time to discuss aspects of the Army with many different leaders. I would recommend CTLT to everyone; the things I learned during this experience cannot be learned in a book, they must be experienced. I will take many things from this wonderful experience with me as I enter my position in the Army.

The SMP Cadet: Learn, Train, Lead

CDT Tyler Wakasugi

Bravo Company Cadet Commander

The Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP, hereafter) is a program offered through both the U.S. Army Reserve and the Army National Guard that provides cadets with an opportunity to drill with a reserve component unit and learn what platoon leaders in a specific branch do; in a way, it is like an internship. Cadets who enlist in SMP take on all of the same time requirements associated with being a soldier in the reserve component; this means attending and completing training at drill one weekend per month and two weeks out of the summer. At each of these training events SMP cadets are paid as an E-5 (SGT) and may be given opportunities to practice leadership with real soldiers in many different roles within the unit.



Currently, I am an SMP cadet drilling with a Minnesota National Guard light infantry unit where I have shadowed two different platoon leaders and observed their role as officers in the National Guard. In my time there I have been given the opportunity to fill

different roles and responsibilities within the unit as well as participate in all of the training they provide. I have temporarily filled positions from team leader up through platoon leader. Besides all of the opportunities for being directly involved in a “real life” chain of command, I have been able to gain other invaluable experiences through planning and leading overnight patrols, delivering training briefs to company-sized elements, working alongside non-commissioned officers, conducting physical readiness and combat training, and also just being around the junior enlisted soldiers as a perceived leadership figure.

The experience I have shared about the National Guard is my own, and while some cadets might have shared a similar one, the reality is that as SMP cadets’ experiences vary greatly throughout the National Guard and the Army Reserve; some might be better and some might be worse. SMP is like any other training in the Army; it is what you make of it. Every unit has something valuable to offer, even if it is only the fact that you spend time with enlisted soldiers or witness what not to do as a leader; that is a valuable learning experience in itself. On top of the experience you get as an SMP cadet, in some cases you are also eligible for the benefits associated with being a member of the National Guard or Army Reserve. In the Minnesota National guard, cadets who have either completed basic training or the basic course for ROTC (MSLI AND II) are eligible for state tuition reimbursement for college. Your eligibility for that program is something you would need to discuss with the recruiter that helps you get into the National Guard or Reserves.

I would encourage cadets to look into SMP and explore the options



available to see if it is fitting for them. You can get good experience on top of a little extra money on the side and possibly have school paid for. To become an SMP cadet, cadets in Eagle Battalion can talk to Charlene Purnell in the ROTC department as well as a local Army Reserve or National Guard recruiter. Joining the program requires cadets to enlist in either the National Guard or Army Reserve through the proper enlistment channels. It can be a great experience with numerous opportunities for learning, networking, and expanding your understanding of how the Army operates.

Being A Successful Cadet Battalion Commander

CDT Amadeus Gandy

Cadet Battalion Commander

There are some cadets who believe that there is some big secret to the life and success of the Battalion Commander (BN CDR). On the contrary, there is no big secret to being a cadet Battalion Commander. There isn't a specific standard or lifestyle required me. On the contrast, those things outside of ROTC – my wife, my family, my hobbies, and my academics, mold the dynamics of my life. That's not to say that my life take precedence over ROTC, but rather, that there is a balance that exists between those things



family, school and ROTC itself. It is also to say that how one harmonizes that balance, essentially shapes the cadet and his/her role as the cadet BN CDR. I want to convey two contributing factors to the successful life of the BN CDR. The first is the preparation done by the Battalion Staff (BN Staff) & Company Commanders, and the second is time management.

There are times when I have to wake up earlier than usual or attend events earlier in order to ensure that events are prepared and that contingencies are accounted for as much as possible.

However, most of the preparation and credit goes to the Staff and Commanders for their hard work throughout the weeks of training. So as the BN CDR, I do not do much as far as execution – I owe that to the other MSIVs. But, it is my duty to ensure that everything that could possibly be planned is indeed planned. This is why when things are going according to plan, my job is easy and my attention can be focused on supervision. Conversely, when things are not going according to plan, the BN CDR is held responsible. The BN CDR is always held responsible for all the BN does, or fails to do and freely accepts any of the consequences. This is perhaps the biggest secret I could share about being the BN CDR. There is a great deal of teamwork involved.

The next thing I could share in the success of the BN CDR is that my time management skills are expected to be near perfect. Though much planning goes into OPORDs, contingencies arise and the BN CDR must possess the mental agility to adjust fire – be it immediate or something that could happen later in the week. Having control over the events in my life enable me, as the BN CDR, to quickly react and make decisions in ROTC. Furthermore, the BN CDR must be able to attend to issues personally, and I have found myself devoting much of my time to ROTC endeavors. But, this is the life of the BN CDR. I wouldn't feel like I was doing my job if I did not attend extra-curricular ROTC activities, attend both companies leadership laboratories, and volunteer my time to accomplish my mission. Having control over my time (in and out of ROTC) and allowing my time to be flexible (outside ROTC) enables me to be the BN CDR Eagle Battalion deserves.

Overall, I thought it best to share

these two things, as they have the greatest impact on the life of the BN CDR. There are plenty of other contributing factors that apply to being an effective and great leader, but these two are the utmost important factors in my time as BN CDR.



The Pathway to Becoming A Second Lieutenant

CDT Jordan Henrickson

Cadet S-5

ROTC is one way to become a Commissioned Officer in the United States Army; other options include: Officer Candidate School, Military Academies, and Direct Commission. ROTC allows students to maintain a perfect balance of military, personal, social, and academic life. The life of a Cadet runs a little under four years; then they complete the ROTC program and assume the rank of a Second Lieu-



administered, then each new officer has his or her rank pinned on by a person of their choosing. After all the new officers have had their new rank pinned on, they give their first salute to a Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) of their choosing. The first salute is a tradition that dates back to the beginning of the United States Army. The officer and NCO walk towards each other, and the NCO renders the new officer a salute, which is a sign of respect. The new officer then returns the salute and presents the NCO with a silver dollar; this is why the first salute is also known as the "Silver Dollar Salute." After the first salute, the process of commissioning is complete. Congratulations to Fall 2013 Commissioning Class of Eagle Battalion.



tenant. This past December, some Eagle Battalion Cadets commissioned as Second Lieutenants. These new officers include the following: Faleatua Afoa, Andrew Brooks, Amanda Domenget, Jerred Olson, Katharina Schreier, and Kayla Trogstad.

The commissioning ceremony they participated in began with an introduction and speech from the guest speaker. Following that Officer's Oath is administered by the next part is the Officer's Oath, administered by the Professor of Military Science. The Officer's Oath is a sworn commitment made by these Second Lieutenants to protect and defend the United States Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic. After the oath is



The Benefits of Coaching and Mentoring

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Cadet CSM

In the profession of arms, great leadership is required at every level and demanded from superiors at all time. The insistence of high and moral guidance is what every soldier expects from his or her officers. But what is the process of developing a great leader? At the high school level, a dedicated coach or a committed teacher motivated students to learn and progress through the difficulties of life. They provided the instruction and advice that only experience can tell. In much of the same way, ROTC implements a coaching and mentorship program reminiscent of an academic curriculum, but geared towards the development and well rounded success of the ROTC cadet.

When a potential candidate for the ROTC program expresses interest in becoming an officer, he/she is assigned a mentor from the roster of third year cadets (MSIII). With data received concerning academic program, athletics, and school, a MSIII is tasked with guiding the candidate through the process of becoming an MSI in ROTC. Before even donning the uniform, a candidate has a point of contact who shares relevant interests and background.

With the start of the semester, the MSI must quickly adapt not only to the lifestyle of a college student but also to the requirements of a Cadet. Though ROTC is incredibly rewarding and satisfying, it does come with additional struggles not normally affiliated with a typical college stu-



dent. A mentor, who has experienced the same struggles, is meant to motivate his/her protégé to meet the physical requirements of the Army fitness program. They are also there to provide guidance on the finer aspects of college life such as studying techniques, proper sleep patterns, and balanced meals. Through interactions and continued dialogue, a relationship of respect and trust is built between individuals.

Similar to the mentorship program is the coaching program. Aimed towards enhancing the skills learned in the first and second year, MSIIIs receive additional instruction and guidance from a fourth year cadet (MSIV). This relationship is deeply rooted in preparing the MSIII in becoming the best officer he/she can possibly be. In the summer of their third year, Cadets must successfully pass Leadership De-

velopment and Assessment Course (LDAC) and be accessed in their potential as officers in the United States Army. These skills range from basic soldier skills to an in depth assessment of leadership. MSIVs, who have just completed LDAC provide insight and a knowledge base to the MSIII. The relationship is rooted in the dedication to the success of every MSIII and the improvement of the Battalion as a whole. Keeping each other accountable, MSIVs must check the work of an MSIII and provide guidance in planning and execution.

As a Cadet who has experienced each level of the mentoring and coaching program, I recognize the value in the Army's guiding principle of stewarding the profession. Unlike many other careers, the Army relies on dedicated and experienced professionals to accomplish the mission. By mentoring and coaching junior members of our organization, we become a better and stronger force.

