

THE TOMAHAWK



MAJOR CHAMBERS AWARDED MOST OUTSTANDING ARMY ROTC INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

CPT Chambers came to the Mohawk Battalion ROTC program from Baghdad, Iraq, in the summer of 2005. Four years and one promotion later, MAJ Chambers now prepares to depart for the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Grateful for his service, the Mohawk Battalion nominated MAJ Chambers for the Leo A. Codd Award, which honors officers dedicated to ROTC's military preparedness. Surprising only to him, MAJ Chambers was selected for the award as the most outstanding Army ROTC instructor of the year.

As the Assistant Professor of Military Science and the Battalion Operations Officer, he directs his focus on the education of MSIII cadets, as they prepare for the accessions process that determines their military careers. He employs an eclectic knowledge set, coordinating tactics and adaptive leadership in his classroom curriculum and the battalion training calendar. He focuses on concepts instead of rules, "sharing his personal experiences in the Army and Iraq and [assigning civilian authors] such as SunTzu, Mark Bowden, and Laurence Gonzales," says CDT Seagroatt.

Assuming the role of Ranger Challenge team coach, MAJ Chambers originally took on a team that did not believe they could win. Revamping the training schedule, the team traveled to the competition site at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and spent a weekend reconnoitering and rehearsing on location. Through Ranger Challenge, MAJ Chambers has taught team captains, such as CDT Waters, "what it means

to sacrifice and succeed." He took a team that trained hard and taught them to train smart, taking home second, fourth, and second place respectively over the past three years.

Above and beyond the parameters of his duty description, MAJ Chambers is renowned for his high standards and his ability to motivate others to achieve them. As noted by CDT Lain, MAJ Chambers holds cadets to the highest standard while ensuring their leadership abilities are challenged. One might wonder how MAJ Chambers motivates cadets to meet these standards in the midst of academics,



athletics, extra-curricular activities, and social pursuits. It is through loyalty, time, effort, and energy he has invested into the Mohawk Battalion. Like many cadets, CDT Anderson's career path was refocused by MAJ Chambers, who counseled him that "you get out of life what you put into it." When it came time for CDT Anderson to lead an upcoming training event, he wanted to produce products that he "would be proud to show MAJ Chambers." At 10 o'clock the night before execution, CDT Anderson was still working in the ROTC

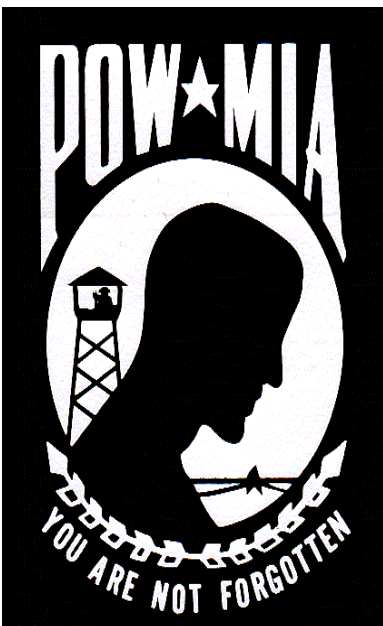
office, down the hall from MAJ Chambers. Before CDT Anderson headed home, MAJ Chambers simply said to him, "You did a great job." MAJ Chambers' affirmation makes hard work worth the sacrifice, and his late night support reminds cadets of his loyalty to the Mohawk Battalion and reconfirms their loyalty to him.

Upon congratulating MAJ Chambers for his award, he sarcastically replied "only your mother believes what is written on your OER (Officer Evaluation Report)." Contrary to his modest remark, at least every cadre and cadet who nominated him for the award believed he deserved it. Over the course of the last four years, cadets have been privileged to be part of the Mohawk Battalion under MAJ Chambers' influence. He is a leader among leaders, and the current level of proficiency and professionalism cadets put forth in their work is the direct result of his dedicated example within the program. It is the big picture that he conveys, which illustrates that if we work hard and do well in a safe and modest ROTC program then we have a better chance of doing well when bullets are flying and our soldiers' lives are at stake. There are no less than 92 American soldiers in the world today who are better soldiers and better leaders for having had MAJ Chambers in their young lives. Recognizing him with the Leo A. Codd Award is the least we can do to convey our gratitude. Thank you MAJ Chambers. Good luck and God speed.

-CDT Cleveland

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commander's Corner	2
MS III Year	3
MS I Year	3
Time Management	4
Words of Wisdom	5
Color Guard	6
Quite a Shock	6
Army American Bowl	7
Living Army Values	8
Benetits of ROTC	9
Why I joined ROTC	9
ROTC Experience	10
ROTC Decision	11
Making a Difference	11



THE COMMANDER'S CORNER
HONORING FORMER PRISONER OF WAR DAY

On April 7th of this year, I was privileged to address a group of Veterans at the Stratton Veteran's Administration Hospital in Albany to commemorate Former Prisoner of War Day. In attendance were over a dozen Veterans who were former prisoners of war. In keeping with the theme of many of the articles contained in this issue of the Tomahawk, I wanted to share the remarks I made on that day as my personal reflection on the meaning of service.

It gives me great pride to address this distinguished assembly today. Indeed, it is a great honor to share this room and podium with such great patriots and citizens. Whether you have worn a uniform or as some have stated it, donned the "national cloth", or take action to support and honor those who have—you have directly contributed to the defense of this nation. How, you may ask, does an event like this contribute to our national defense? Well, it is pretty straight forward to me—to anyone that genuinely honors the traditions and sacrifices of military service affirms the founding principles of our nation—that freedom is not free and it requires continual maintenance and commitment from those who believe in our nation's ideals. This afternoon we are surrounded by men and women who say "I believe" through action—and action always speaks louder than words.

Today we honor those who have a unique perspective on what freedom really means. These are men who wore our nation's uniform and, through the circumstances of war, found themselves in the control of our enemies. With their precious freedom removed from them for the sole reason that they bore arms for their nation made it acutely obvious that freedom is not simply an abstract concept. These men suffered not for who they were but for who and what they represented. I had never thought very deeply on this topic until preparing for today. I have always found it easy to say "I am an American" and be quite proud

of that. These men were incarcerated for doing the same.

In my nearly 15 years of military service, that have included 27 months in Iraq and 24 months in Korea, I have learned the value of service, but this is not nearly enough. It is in my current position as a Professor of Military Science that I believe I can really start paying back this debt that really cannot be repaid. At Siena College, RPI, and UAlbany, 120 Cadets have been placed in my charge. Through them, I have an opportunity to perpetuate the ideals our prisoners of war suffered for. These young men and women have already demonstrated a great deal of courage and commitment just by stepping forward and expressing their willingness to serve. They know their country is at war—and they continue to come forward.

This year 21 of our Cadets will take the oath of commissioning and join the ranks of our active and reserve component forces. Each will go forward armed with a sense of purpose and the skills required to lead, fight and win. Fifteen active and reserve duty cadre have helped mold these young men and women. All 15 of our cadre are veterans and each is committed to imparting the skills, knowledge and attributes necessary to make great leaders and warriors. Army ROTC produces nearly 70% of all officers in the Army—Active Guard and Reserve—and we ensure that all are imbued with the warrior Ethos—"I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade." This is my sacred trust, that all our new officers go forward and do honor, through their actions, to those who came before them.

In closing, I wish to thank all those who made this day possible. Honoring our former prisoners-of-war is more than a remembrance and an act of true gratitude, it is a way to perpetuate the great intangibles that make up who we are as a nation. Thank you, and God Bless America.

-LTC Morgado

BEGINNING MY MS III YEAR

The beginning of my MS III year in the fall semester, I realized immediately how important the year was going to be. As an MSI and MSII, I never experienced the pressure and the stress that the MSIII level cadets had to go through. From instructing PT on a regular basis to leading a squad on a STX Lane, there are a lot of skills and techniques an MSIII level cadet must be comfortable with in order to lead effectively and successfully. The transition from an MSII to an MSIII was a wakeup call; it was my time to step up to the plate and prove not only to the MSIV evaluators and the Cadre members, but more importantly to myself that I have what it takes to become a future leader in the United States Army.

A challenge I faced in my fall semester of 2009 was the uncertainty of my abilities in becoming a leader. The responsibility a MSIII level cadet has

to undertake was something new to me. Upon consulting with several Cadre members, I recognized the root of my problem stemmed from my own self-consciousness. Immediately I made a list of things I needed to improve on; listed as number one was my physical dimension. I wasn't where I wanted to be, so I worked on it. With the help of remedial PT, I saw a steady improvement on the number of reps I can do on push-ups and sit-ups as well as a decrease in my overall run time.



A Cadre member in my company told me that if I can focus on one problem at a time then my life will be manageable. Surprisingly, after I've improved my PT score, everything else fell into place. I've found my confidence and my place among my fellow peers. However, I am always mindful of my level of comfort; a Cadre member once said to me, if I am too comfortable then I not working hard enough so I always have to be looking for that new level of discomfort.

-CDT Law

MY FIRST YEAR OF ROTC

The life of an Army ROTC SMP cadet is a busy one, with a condensed schedule of events and training. In addition to the rigors of graduate school and ROTC training, I also work full time at Vistec Lithography. The company serves customers working in the semiconductor industry, optics, applied research and at universities.

Fall 2008 was my first semester with The Mohawk Battalion. It was quite a challenge trying to find a balance between work, graduate school (night classes) and ROTC training. Luckily, the semester ended well with an overall GPA of 3.7. LTC Morgado and MAJ Chambers were very helpful by providing the flexibility that I needed to successfully complete the Fall semester. Without their help and the support of the staff, life would have been quite difficult.

Since entering the program, I have learned valuable leadership and team building skills that will help me succeed as a future Army Officer and in the civilian

world. The program in conjunction with MBA school has taught me how to manage and lead to effectively achieve organizational goals. My work experiences, education, and leadership training from ROTC has strengthened my profile and character, providing a career path that I always dreamed of. Furthermore, I also have a new found confidence that will continue to impact my daily life.

I did not join the program because of the money. I joined the program to fulfill a personal commitment and to attain the leadership development that I could not gain from the civilian world and education alone. I have learned a great deal about myself and quickly recognized my strengths and weaknesses.

-CDT Ngo



LESSONS LEARNED IN TIME MANAGEMENT

The ability an individual has to manage his or her time correctly is directly correlated with their future failure or success. The failure to manage time correctly has many consequences, varying from a decrease in physical and or academic performance to the questioning of one's reliability and execution. The ability to manage time correctly is a skill that is developed when an individual must organize numerous tasks based on their significance and implications. The following will explain the challenges I faced during the fall semester regarding the time management of Ranger Challenge and graduate level academic performance.

When asked whether I felt capable of participating in Ranger Challenge as a graduate student by the cadre, the first question I asked myself was, can my physical performance help the existing team? When looking back that first question should have been, do I truly have enough time to commit myself to this team in the attempt to better myself, along with the other cadets involved, while maintaining a high level of academic performance? The two questions are different in that the first is individually focused in what action would be taken when on the team.

The second allows you to consider how you will be hurting yourself and more importantly those teammates, if you truly do not have the time to commit. Therefore, in order to provide the level of commitment you would expect from someone else, there are specific requirements that an individual should follow.

An individual's ability to manage time is made possible by their ability to be organized, realistic and determined. Becoming better organized allowed me to pay attention to specific details, such as times, dates, locations and tasks. I was then able to write them down and visualize the different military tasks versus my academic tasks. Being realistic deals with the importance and the consequences of having to make a decision when those specific details conflict. What will happen to my grades if I decide to stop reading the one hundred pages I was told to finish for class at 9:00am to get some more needed sleep for our 3 mile run tomorrow? I had learned to balance what I believed and deemed to be important. Whether the answer was, I can run 3 miles anytime and this reading was essential for a possible exam or I need to improve my physical

performance for my teammates when it comes competition time. Finally, without determination, failure is inevitable. If you realize you are not willing to sacrifice part of yourself for a greater cause then you are only hurting the others involved who are prepared to make the significant forfeits.

In conclusion, the lesson I learned during the fall semester is that the key to time management is organization, determination and being realistic. Without these qualities your ability to thrive in multitasking will be limited and will not go unnoticed. Most importantly, the dedication and time management of those around you will be compromised by your inability to be realistic with yourself. Successful time management results in your ability to feel capable and confident when dealing with multiple tasks. It also results in your ability to be known as a reliable contributor.

-CDT Marinello



2008 Ranger Challenge Team



Physical Training Test during Ranger Challenge Competition

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM CADET DEROBERT'S

I have found my time in ROTC to be a truly rewarding and worthwhile experience. I have learned many invaluable skills and information that I will carry into my career as a 2LT and beyond. During my time here in ROTC, I prepared to learn from the leaders around me; a tremendous amount about the Army, leadership, and myself. Here are some areas that I feel are the most important aspects of being a leader.

Leadership – Leadership is often explained in different ways, but there are some tenants that remain constant in any definition. Officers must always lead from the front. Whether in PT, off duty, or in tactical situation, an officer must set the example by being out in front of their soldiers doing what is right and performing to the highest standard. Leaders must be confident and willing to stand up for their soldiers at all times. Leaders must also know the ins and outs of all of the soldiers in order to better motivate and inspire them. Set the standard and enforce the standard, and don't ever expect what you don't inspect.

Physical Fitness – Physical training is a time when all of your soldiers see you and form an opinion about you. Being in top physical condition is paramount to leading a successful team. If your subordinates see an overweight, out-of-shape platoon leader they will form the opinion that being that way is the standard and can lose respect for you. Failing a PT test is absolutely unacceptable for any leader. You must strive for a PT score of at least 270, and work to motivate and encourage your soldiers to exceed any standards the company or battalion has put in place. You must always do PT when your soldiers are doing PT. Leading from the front and setting the example and standard are key points to successfully leading your platoon to be more physically fit and operate more efficiently.

Training Management – As a platoon leader, you will constantly be involved in training meetings and be responsible for conducting the training for your soldiers. Learn and understand the OPORD process and ensure that your products can be understood at the lowest levels. You must learn to delegate responsibility as well; it is impossible to do every task yourself. By empowering your subordinates, you enable them to step up and show their abilities and give them a chance to learn new skills. When planning training, always be cognizant of your commander's intent and focus on achieving these goals. Pay attention during training meetings and ensure that you have a firm grasp on everything that will be taking place over the next 6 weeks.

Motivation – Motivation is contagious. The easiest way to get your platoon to show up on time, in the correct uniform, and with a positive attitude is to do so yourself. Remember, you set the standard in everything you do. Motivation is not just getting out there and yelling all the time. It is showing up on time and putting everything you have into what you do. **Communication** – This is a major topic that sometimes gets overlooked. You must establish a strong bond between your superiors, peers, and subordinate leaders. You must also keep your chain of command informed on all important issues. Trying to cover up problems or sweeping them under the rug is always the wrong answer. Communication with your cadets is also huge, as you must keep them informed on anything that affects them in the near future. There is nothing worse than a soldier who doesn't know what is going on that day. Put out information early, and you will be surprised by the level of preparation that your soldiers put forward. Finally, if you are running late, always call someone. It is so important that you

keep your peers and leadership informed of your whereabouts when you are not where you are supposed to be.

Soldier Care – This is my biggest focus as a leader. If your soldiers are happy and taken care of by their leadership, they will perform on a much higher level. No soldier should ever feel uncomfortable about coming to you for help. You should be available to them 24 hours a day for whatever issues they might be going through. Ensure that if a soldier comes to you for help, you don't have an answer for them, you will work to find someone who does.

Support Decisions of the Command Group – Always keep your conversations professional both on and off duty in regards to your chain of command. There will be times to interject your thoughts and opinions, but once a decision is made, you must execute the orders issued by your higher commanders. Also, NEVER bad mouth the chain of command in front of your soldiers; you undermine their authority and their effectiveness to lead.

Officer Behavior and Values – It is the responsibility of all leaders to set the example both on and off duty. In order to effectively lead your squad, you must live the army values and have respect for everyone around you, no matter what the rank. Have integrity to make the hard decisions, and set the right example, not the wrong one.

Appearance – Wear your uniform with respect and always have a clean haircut.

Have Fun – There is nothing wrong with bringing humor and enjoyment to each work day. By setting an atmosphere where soldiers will work hard while enjoying it, you make them more willing to work, building a stronger team.

-CDT DeRoberts

MY FIRST COLOR GUARD EXPERIENCE

One of the first events that I volunteered for in ROTC was Color Guard for the UAlbany and Siena basketball game. I was unsure of what to expect because I never did color guard before. The day before the game Cadet Ruso taught all of us the proper motions involved with the parade rifles and flags. We rehearsed our exact steps piece by piece, over and over, until we got it right and obtained Cadre approval.

At the Times Union Center the next day, we continued rehearsing the procedure; making sure all of our moves were in unison. The hardest part of the color guard are the two people with rifles on opposite sides of the formation. We had to be in perfect unison to pull it off. If one of us was too fast or too slow, everyone watching would notice and it would look terrible. Cadet Snyder and I rehearsed the coordination of our rifle movements dozens of times until there was some semblance of unison between us.

As the game time was approaching, we made our final preparations and assembled at the edge of the arena. I was nervous that I would mess up and make us look bad. The announcer introduced us as ROTC cadets from Albany and Siena. I thought of how cool it was that despite the intense sports rivalry between the two colleges that we could still function together as one.



Siena and UAlbany Cadets perform Color Guard at the Times Union Center.

I think we symbolized the bigger picture of what was going on, that we ultimately were one people and one nation.

After being announced we marched out to the applause of thousands of fans. I remember trying to stay focused on my maneuvers during the awesome reception we got. It felt good to know that everyday citizens really appreciate what we do, it really motivated me. After we marched out to the center of the court and presented arms the national anthem was sung.

Looking back it was a real honor to represent the Army and the ROTC program, I would definitely do it again and would encourage any other cadets who haven't done Color Guard to go for it.

-CDT Forstner

QUITE A SHOCK

I did not know I was signed up for a military science class until the first day of class. When I was picking out my classes for the spring semester I found a one credit class with a course that was in the same college as Political Science, (my major) and decided to try it. So, you can imagine how shocked I was after I walked into a room and the instructor began handing out books which had the words: ARMY ROTC imprinted upon the cover. I was so confused. I had no idea what ROTC even meant. As I sat there on that first day all I can remember thinking was "Oh crap, I do not know anything about the military." Images of Forest Gump and the Patriot popped into my head. I pictured people running around with guns trying to kill the enemy. I remember thinking to myself "What am I doing here?...I don't like guns and I don't like violence."

I can tell you that today, I still don't like guns and I still don't like

violence. However, I have a new found respect and appreciation for anyone who is part of the military. Every previous impression I had of the army was wrong. The ROTC program isn't anything I thought it was going to be. The program is about leadership, learning to adjust to unfavorable situations and unfamiliar environments, producing confidence and maturity and developing values. Through an academic approach, every student is encouraged to recognize and encompass the Army's seven core values; loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage (LDRSHIP). It is the program's aim to instill these values into students so they can be applied in missions and in any situation which requires tough decisions. The ROTC program does an impeccable job of demonstrating these leadership values. While defining leadership can be a difficult task, I think the Army defines it well, and those that I have crossed paths with

with that are in the Army give the term its true meaning. Leadership is being able to "influence people by providing purpose, direction and motivation, while operating to accomplish one's mission and improve the organization." These are exactly the kinds of skills one observes and pursues while in this program. All of these skills are a tribute to one's personality, as well as their mental and emotional attributes.

After being enrolled in this program I can tell you that every college campus should have an ROTC unit. This program provides for nourishment of one's mental health and one can only benefit and become a better person as a result. While the program need not be academically challenging, it is mentally challenging. It forces one to take a step back and evaluate their life and what things really matter the most.

-Ms. Martens (is enrolled in MS201)

THE US ARMY ALL-AMERICAN BOWL

This past January, Cadet Connell and myself attended the US Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas representing the Mohawk Battalion. The US Army All-American is a high school football all star game in which the best high school seniors from all over the country are selected to play in. Playing in the game itself is quite prestigious as many of the games alumni have gone on to have distinguished collegiate and professional careers. These include: Vince Young, Reggie Bush, Tim Tebow, and Adrian Peterson.



US Army All-American Bowl 2009

We arrived on December 30th and were housed in a San Antonio hotel. It was exciting to see how the city embraces the game. It was also fun to experience the weeklong festivities. Many of the hotels and buildings in the city were covered with giant ARMY STRONG posters and pictures of former US Army All-American football players.

During our time in San Antonio, we got to explore the city and experience the fun San Antonio River Walk. As Cadets we were also responsible for supervising a group of high school juniors who had been recruited to workout at a national combine as well as take part in several US Army All American Bowl Game festivities throughout the week.

The day before the game, Cadet Connell and I were in charge of in-processing the players for the Bowl. That evening there was an assembly with numerous speakers to include former collegiate coaches, former NFL players, nutrition and other sport-related experts. Closing the evening was a brief speech given by Brigadier General Bray, whom CDT Connell and myself had the pleasure of meeting following the assembly.

The next day was the National Combine. That morning we met our squad of players which consisted of around 20 of the best high school junior players. We were bused over to the Alamo Dome where the combine and the All-American game took place. For the remainder of the morning we lead our groups of players around to stations at which they were tested on different aspects of their game. After being tested on their forty yard dash time, pro-agility shuttle time, and vertical jump we broke for lunch. In the afternoon session they players broke into their positions and there were one on one competitions between the defensive linemen and offensive linemen, defensive backs and wide receivers, and linebackers and running backs. The day concluded with a trip to the ARMY STRONG zone where all of the different branches of the US Army were showcased.

The final day was the US Army All-American football game itself. We, along with our squads, watched the top high school recruits play and announce their commitments to Division 1 schools such as, USC, Ohio State, and Notre Dame. There were also many former professional players at the game to include Mike Golic and Ed McCaffery, as well as many high ranking US Army officers and enlisted personnel.

In the fourth quarter we were able to get onto the sidelines and were shown on the jumbo-tron and on national television as the game was being broadcasted on NBC.

The US Army All-American Bowl Game was a great experience. The city of San Antonio is a fun city and does an excellent job of hosting the event and the US Army does an superb job of organizing the entire event. Being apart of this event only made me more proud to be apart of the US Army.

-CDT Kukesh (*a varsity football player at RPI*)



The streets of San Antonio during the Bowl



Opening Ceremony

LIVING THE ARMY CORE VALUES AS A RESIDENTIAL ADVISOR

I am currently a sophomore at Union College. This year I became a Residential Advisor on a floor composed of roughly twenty-five freshmen guys. As an RA, I was thrust into a role- model position for these guys, who were all a little confused and nervous at starting this new chapter of their lives. I had to make time in order to facilitate their change from being seniors in high school, to becoming the new kids on campus, miles away from their comfort areas.

My task has been difficult, especially with such a busy schedule of my own. I have had to deal with underage drinking, fist fights, relationship and roommate problems, as well as drug use. However, living the Army Core Values has greatly helped me in doing my job to the best of my ability.

Loyalty is the first Army Core Value, and when dealing with the personal problems of my residents, a great deal of loyalty is required. In the Army, loyalty refers to the Constitution, the Army, one's soldiers and one's self, but

as an RA, loyalty refers to being loyal to my residents, as well as to myself and my fellow RA's.

Duty is another Army Core Value, and this one's meaning seems to be more apparent in terms of RA life. I have a duty to create unity among my residents, as well as uphold laws and the Campus' rules and regulations.

Respect comes next, and like Duty, the meaning is pretty obvious. It is important to treat others as they deserve to be treated. The residents on my floor have extremely varying lifestyles as well as coming from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

Selfless-Service is another Core Value. Following the Fall Field Training Exercise, the last thing I wanted to do was go back to my dorm and start my duty shift which requires me to do rounds around my building and another at designated times of the night. However, in living the Core Values, I placed the needs of my building and residents ahead of my own and did my duty.

Honor relates to living all of the Army Values simultaneously. By doing this, I have made myself the best RA I can be, and creating the best environment possible for my residents and building.

Integrity is a Core Value that gets tested nearly every day as an RA. I have become good friends with many of residents, and this places me in a somewhat awkward position when it comes to disciplining them. I need to maintain my integrity when it comes to enforcing policies on underage drinking and drug use.

Personal Courage, in a way, goes along with integrity. Courage relates to being able to face adversity, and in dealing with cases of underage drinking, drug use or fighting, it is necessary. I have encountered other RA's who are not able to deal with certain situations on their own because of their lack of courage.

-CDT Shalvoy

Congratulations to the Mohawk Battalion MS IVs!



Bottom left to right- CDT Boutros, CDT Thompson, CDT Lee, CDT Manning, CDT Turner, CDT Kane, CDT Cleveland, and MAJ Phillips
 Middle Left to Right- LTC Morgado, CDT Lain, CDT Anderson, CDT Smith, CDT Cummings, CDT DeRoberts, CDT Wiczorek, and CDT Ruso
 Third Left to Right- CDT Vorsteveld and CDT Edelen
 Not Photographed- CDT Waters and CDT Minekime

A FEW BENEFITS OF ROTC

You may have noticed students on campus proudly wearing a camouflage uniform with the American flag on their right arm, and US Army over their heart. If you didn't know, these are cadets are in training through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, most commonly known as ROTC. To have an Army ROTC unit established on campus is a great opportunity for anyone to gain experience like no other way. In one semester, I've learned to find different characteristics in myself including courage, leadership, and physical and mental strength that I never knew I had before. I've faced different high rope courses, and rappelling off of a wall. I've learned to lead by example, not only to other Cadets, but also to students who don't participate in ROTC. Lastly, I wake up at 5:30 a.m. (which many college students would agree is a challenge in itself) Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to push myself as much as possible in physical training. Each and every task I participate through ROTC not only makes me a better Soldier, but a better student and person.

Adapting different characteristics is not only a benefit you can receive through Army ROTC. Being a student in college, we all know it's hard and stressful financially. I've been asked the question of "Would you recommend a ROTC scholarship to your friend?"; without hesitation the answer is yes. Before I knew about ROTC, I had questions running through my mind of "How will I pay off my loans?", and "What if I can't find a career after college?" My questions were answered by accepting a scholarship. I now receive a monthly stipend, and the Army pays full tuition. If I choose to go Active Duty it guarantees me a career. If I don't choose Active Duty, I can go part-time by joining the Army Reserves or Army National Guard, in which I drill one weekend of every month, and two weeks of each year; making it possible to have a civilian career. Why wouldn't I accept the scholarship? I get great benefits for doing something I'm very proud of; defending my country.

In only two years I will commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. With the training I have received thus far, and the training I will receive in the future, I am confident in becoming an Army Officer. I will take on new challenges I have not yet experienced, acquire responsibilities, and gain new skills. I will be a part of a team of people I can count on, no matter where I am. Best of all, I will be protecting my country for those who can not. Don't get me wrong, the Army may be a challenge, but it's worth it. I love to think that I am an American Soldier. I stand with pride when I'm in my Uniform, and I can say with confidence that any Cadet I know feels the same way.

-CDT Kurtz



WHY I JOINED ROTC

Joining the military wasn't really a hard decision for me. When I was born in New York in '91 my mother almost immediately enlisted and we moved to Arizona. From there we moved 6 more times between 3 different states all across America. Needless to say by the time I graduated high school I was fairly acclimated to the army lifestyle.

I used to go to work with my mom a lot in her drill sergeant days and even would attend PT on occasion to condition for running cross country. I really enjoyed the disciplined and orderly environment that was and still is my mom's world. When I was 11 or 12 my mom went off to WOCS and came back as a Warrant Officer. Her new assignment on Ft. Polk Louisiana really started to expose me to the commissioned officers. When she began working in the Pentagon a couple years ago,

I met some of the most knowledgeable and high speed people I have ever encountered in my life. Not only were these people uplifting in their spirits, but they were organized, disciplined at what they did, and decisive. One person especially made an impact on me though, Major Nunez. Other than my mom, I think he was the most influential figure in my decision to join the service. I got most of my council about joining ROTC from him, because he is what I would have considered an ideal cadet. Not only did he achieve maximum PT scores and get a 5 along with the rest of his platoon at LDAC, but he was a very sociable person and had a very uplifting spirit, while maintaining an outstanding hard working frame of mind. After a long conversation with him about the highlights of ROTC and all of the benefits you can attain from it I knew it was what I wanted to do.

Upon applying to colleges, I wasn't only looking at the caliber of academic prestige of each school, but also the ROTC battalion. Some will say that West Point and Norwich are the schools to go to if you want to be a great officer. I respectfully disagree. In the counseling I received from many, most everyone agreed that ROTC is the way to go because you get something from it that you don't get from service academies, freedom to make more of your own choices. With ROTC you get all of that great training necessary to be successful, but you are also a normal undergrad student. When I came across the Mohawk Battalion and RPI, I felt that it was the best match.

After being in ROTC for almost an academic year, I believe that I couldn't have made a better decision.

-CDT Thrush

MY ROTC EXPERIENCE

For many college students, their ROTC training and experience being their freshman year of college. However, my experience began half-way through my college career as I began preparing for graduate school. At this point in my life, I had already completed an undergraduate degree in therapeutic and international studies and was already well on my way to becoming an occupational therapist, I was still not completely satisfied in the direction my life was going. Acting on a strong pull towards serving my country, just as my parents had, I began to explore the options and opportunities ROTC had to offer. Since making the decision to join ROTC, now four years ago, I have seen and done more than I ever anticipated. I know without a doubt that I would not be the same person I am today, had it not been for ROTC. Though there are many experiences that played a part in shaping me into the person I am today, the most significant have been my MS III year and the internship opportunities offered to me through ROTC.

As I began my MSIII year, I remember experiencing the common reservations as to how I would perform and handle the increased responsibilities of being placed in leadership positions. Unlike my first two years of ROTC, the expectations of a third year cadet are far greater. Not only is this the first time a cadet is given a position of leadership over the MS I and II cadets, but also when one is evaluated by senior cadets based on the standards set by the United States Army. Further, this is the year in which a cadet learns how to plan, prepare, and execute a series of tactical missions. At first, I felt particularly intimidated by the increased responsibility and expectations because I did not participate in the extracurricular training offered by ROTC due to the demanding schedule and coursework of my Master's program. However, I quickly overcame my initial reservations as to how I would perform my MSIII year as soon as I was

placed in leadership positions. I immediately began to enjoy the increased responsibility and the ability to lead, which positively influence others. Thanks to the help of my instructors and peers, as well as the training I had received through ROTC, I left Siena College the summer of my MS III year for Warrior Forge feeling confident that I would be successful at the culminating training experience.

The internship experiences offered to me through ROTC in occupational therapy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Basset Community Hospital at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and the Guthrie Clinic and the Wounded Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Drum, New York



Field Training as an MS III

have been learning enriched experiences that have not only helped prepare me to become an Army occupational therapist, but also a Medical Specialty Corps Officer.

During the internship experiences I was responsible for providing services to wounded soldiers who had endured such conditions as a traumatic brain injury, fracture, burn, or amputation as a result of combat. I became more proficient in administering a wide variety of evaluations, along with planning and implement treatments. The occupational therapy services that I provided to the soldiers helped to increase their strength and range of motion in their upper extremities, increase their

independence with tasks involved in daily living, such as self care and leisure activities, as well as empower them with coping strategies to address their psychological and emotional needs. The services also helped to ensure a successful transition either back into their previously held military roles or into the civilian sector. On a few occasions I was also given the opportunity to work with cutting edge medical equipment and assist in emergency and routine orthopedic surgeries. From the internships I also gained important experience in the dynamics of working and coordinating care with other medical officers and non commissioned officers. During my last three month internship, I had the fortunate opportunity as a cadet to work as the main occupational therapist and run the clinic that I will be responsible for upon commissioning.

Looking back on the past four years, I am very grateful for the training and mentorship that ROTC has offered me. As my college years come to an end, I confidently and enthusiastically look forward to the workforce. From the leadership development and my experiences gained through ROTC I know that I will be a successfully Medical Specialty Corps Officer and will continue to have an impact on the lives of soldiers as an Army occupational therapist.

-CDT Wiczorek



Myself and another occupational therapist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center

MY DECISION TO JOIN THE MILITARY

All my life I have been actively involved in sports, education, and leadership activities. I sought physical exertion, to push my body to the limits, and found it in ice hockey, cross country, and pole vaulting. I took on extra course work and competed for programs in learning far beyond my level. I was always the one to volunteer for leadership positions in group activities and clubs, and took up martial arts at a young age- eventually becoming a student teacher to help younger students along their way. It was with all of this passion to be pushed and become something more that I found the United States Army. Here I had found something that would indeed provide me the ability to be fit of both body and mind, and the opportunity to lead others, as well as learn what it means to be a good follower. I learned about the ROTC program from a friend. I found many possibilities for growth in the Army, and was sure it would be a welcome addition to my training and knowledge, not only in service, but in my civilian career as well. Thus, I began the lengthy application process that has brought me here today.

It is not only with this strife to reach my personal best that I took the oath. Awareness for the future and desire for a deeper knowledge of what goes on in our world played an important role as well. I am simply not content to sit back and watch life-changing decisions happen around me; I want to be part of it, and have a say in what kind of world future generations will inherit.

Our forefathers knew the importance of being well informed individuals and making an impact on the way our country functions. I feel the best way to actively make a difference is to understand the way things are truly run, and the reasons decisions are made. By being involved with the politics, economics and social concerns associated with the actions of our military (and government), I hope to gain a deeper insight and better informed opinion when it comes time for backing platforms and electing officials.

Pride in country, service, and family, are certainly not the least of my motivation.

in the Army. My uncle was also heavily involved in the military. As a ranger in the US Army, he tells many stories of his intense training and the feats he was required to complete. Some of the stories are quite awe-inspiring and I respect him very much for the sacrifices he has made and the barriers he has overcome.

In Army ROTC I have found a greater definition of what it means to be responsible to others and for your actions. I have learned the true importance of what it means to be a good follower, as well as a leader. I have found great camaraderie among others who share similar insight and personal goals. The training we execute tests planning and organizational skills, ability to communicate, and sheer physical endurance. I enjoy being challenged and entrusted with carrying out tasks; it is very rewarding to be part of a successful mission. With all the opportunities the Army has to offer, I am very excited to continue onto my future career.

-CDT Broomfield

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE

I cannot say that I have always wanted to be in the military. As a child, I was not one to play with little, plastic army guys, re-enacting battles I had read about or seen on television. I was simply not interested in the Army. I knew my father went to West Point and served in the Army, and I knew that he was an extremely disciplined person. He was always on the move; I didn't think he even knew how to be lazy. As I grew older, my father's actions began to make more sense; I realized that if I ever wanted to be successful, I needed to leave my lazy behavior behind. I took the motivation I saw in my father and applied to my own life. I worked harder in school; my grades gained a new meaning and importance. I took up running,

because the amount of success was only equal to my amount of *effort*. I saw a change in my own life; however, it did not seem to be enough. I didn't want to just change my own life; I wanted my life to be of some sort of importance to the world. I realized the best way to achieve this would be through military service. I began to show a great interest in the service academies. I spent a week at the United States Naval Academy in a program for high school juniors called Summer Seminar, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Upon my arrival back home, I knew that I wanted to be in the military. I wanted to follow my father's footsteps and serve my country. I was not sure which branch I wanted to serve in so I applied to all three service academies. I was thoroughly disheartened when I

I was medically disqualified and failed the physical fitness standards. However, I was given the option of accepting an Army ROTC scholarship. I took the scholarship as somewhat of a last resort, hoping that after a year of ROTC experience, I would be offered a spot at a service academy when I reapplied. As it turns out, I thoroughly enjoyed my first semester at RPI in ROTC. After the first month all my intentions of transferring to a service academy disappeared. I realized I can achieve my goal of serving my country just as well in ROTC as I could have if I attended a service academy. -CDT Cody

A SNEAK PEEK AT THE FALL SEMESTER'S TRAINING SCHEDULE

- Mohawk Day
- Drill and Ceremony Lab
- Battalion Run
- Land Navigation Lab
- Fall Field Exercise (FTX)
- Individual/Squad Movement Techniques
- Dining In



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