



Leaders for Life

U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox, Kentucky

Fall 2016

Upcoming Cadet Command events

- November 11
Veterans Day
- November 15
USACC Facebook
Town Hall
- November 25
Thanksgiving
Training Holiday
- December 13-14
USACC Staff Offsite

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CG reflects on Cadet Summer Training

Mattie Cook

CST Intern
Cadet Command Public Affairs

FORT KNOX, Ky.- Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes, Commanding General of Cadet Command and Fort Knox, recently completed his first summer in charge of Cadet Summer Training (CST).

Hughes said he was impressed with what he saw from Cadets and Cadre this summer and described his first CST as rejuvenating.

“The experience has been therapeutic I guess you could say. The Army has been through a lot in the last 15 years of war and those who have gone through those entire 15 years are tired, but when you get to come back to an organization like this and you see young, energetic, motivated and ‘the world is their oyster’ approach it energizes you. It renews your belief in so many different facets of America,” Hughes said. “From the first class to the very last class that I had the privilege to speak to, I found them engaging, articulate, intelligent and willing to just really put on a rucksack and challenge the heck out of themselves.”

He identified the three leader attributes most important for future officers of the U.S. Army as: agility in thought, adaptive critical thinking and problem solving, and an ability to show innovation in their leadership. He also outlined his three main goals as the new commander.



A Bravo Company, 7th Regiment Basic Camp (CIET) Cadet advances to the next station on the Hand Grenade Assault Course at Fort Knox, Ky. July 29. (Photo by Mattie Cook)

“First and foremost is to produce the best second lieutenants we can, based upon those three leader attributes. The second thing we do is develop our Cadre, our military force if you would, so they are value added to the operational force - so I have to develop our officers and noncommissioned officers in Cadet Command so they are the world's best, or at least the Army’s best leader developers - so they understand how to educate leaders, how to train leaders, and they themselves become valuable because they have advanced levels of critical thinking, innovation and adaptability in themselves. And that's something we haven't focused

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on so I'm making that my second focus area.

"The third is the Junior ROTC program. That program has a very interesting mission statement; it's to produce better citizens. How do we produce better citizens who understand patriotism and the Constitution of the United States?" Hughes added. "I think in a lot of cases, yeah we're making better citizens but in a lot of cases we're making better human beings. And we're providing them the opportunity to realize with adult figures (authoritarian figures) that people believe in them and they begin to trust that they can do better than they think they are, and I think that's pretty cool too."

Hughes has also assessed the performance of CST and as given much thought to CST 2017.

"Because of the unique agility of this headquarters and CST itself, we were able to make a lot of changes while in flight, if you will. We made a lot of changes in the field," he said. "We decided to keep the Cadets in the field longer; we didn't bring them back as frequently, that was because we wanted to build their field craft skills."

"We wanted to get them used to acclimatizing, getting used to the weather so the weather isn't always such a challenge; it becomes part of their training - surviving the heat, surviving the thunderstorms, the rain, the chiggers, the ticks," he added.

"Next year a big part of our train up will be teaching those skills and assessing those skills to ensure that when they do go to their basic officer leader courses they are better prepared for what they need to do."

In addition building field craft, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and adaptability, Hughes puts a defining emphasis on the role of one's character in leadership development.

"I'm of the opinion that if someone is a person of character, if they possess the basics - the academic basics, the physical basics, the mental basics - the character which brings that holistic person together in my opinion is if we can assess their character the other three are obvious, Hughes said. "I can tell if you're physically fit, I can tell if you are mentally sound, and your GPA tells me your academic capabilities, or intellect, well not so much your intellect, it tells me what you know, not what you could know and we're still debating about that piece. But the character piece of this is important."

He quoted Martin Luther King Jr. when defining

character. "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands in moments of challenge and controversy."

Hughes continued, "How do I create moments of challenge and controversy so I can truly assess an individual's character, because, I don't want them to be great leaders leading 40 or 50 men and women in combat when everything is going great? Anybody can do that. It's the first casualty, the first vehicle that gets blown up, the first flat tire on a convoy, it's the first small arms contact. How will their character and leader skills react at that

moment of challenge and controversy? And that's key in trying to find conditions where you have to create those conditions at school and at camp are the overarching umbrella idea that I want everything to nest under."

Hughes' ability to create conditions of challenge and controversy emphasizes just how important CST is in the development and evaluation of ROTC Cadets and programs across the country.

"My ability to see that and get that feedback mechanism is almost impossible throughout the course of the year because I am getting it secondhand. Secondhand information, results and data inputs as the commander. But where I can see it and tweak it and actually assess it is during these 32-day crucibles at Fort Knox.

Then I can see the fruits of those ideas

to see if I have the appropriate effect on the development of the Cadets," Hughes said.

Hughes is passionate about impacting the lives of Cadets and developing second lieutenants, and draws from past experiences to incorporate into Cadet Command.

"The experiential factor that probably influences the most, is my personal experience as an ROTC Cadet and then my personal experience in my two sons being ROTC Cadets. I see the program through the eyes of a parent and I see the program through the eyes of an Army officer and the eyes of a Cadet. So I use those three experiences to think about, what did I see that I would change as a parent? What did I feel? What was the most frustrating piece of what my sons had gone through," Hughes said.

Overall, Hughes said he is not only excited about the impressive performances he saw at CST, but he also looks forward to continuing and building up on the performances to continue producing "Leaders for Life."

"From the first class to the very last class that I had the privilege to speak to, I found them engaging, articulate, intelligent and willing to just really put on a rucksack and challenge the heck out of themselves."

**Maj. Gen. Chris Hughes
Commanding General**

Program sharpens ROTC instructors' teaching skills

Michael Maddox

Writer/Editor
Cadet Command Public Affairs

FORT KNOX, Ky. – Students go to school to learn and expand their minds, and quality instruction is a key factor in their academic endeavors. In recognition of that, U.S. Army Cadet Command recently partnered with the University of Louisville to implement the first Cadre & Faculty Development Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The CFDC consists of a summer 9-week resident phase at Fort Knox, and is followed by fall semester clinicals where the students apply the lessons learned over the summer in the classroom on campus where they teach.

The course, which graduated its first class in August, is designed to give Army ROTC instructors baseline facilitator skills to teach in a college classroom, which is a different setting when compared to a typical Army

classroom, said Dr. Wes Smith, Division Chief, Cadre and Faculty Development.

“The outcomes we are looking for in this course are much different than those in a normal Army instructor course,” he explained. “Our target audience is instructors who teach Cadets (students), so what we are trying to do is get them prepared to teach on a campus with other instructors and university faculty. They have a different audience and different peers than in an Army classroom and they have to interact with those folks.”

The curriculum during CFDC reinforces the U.S. Army Learning Concept for 2015 (TRADOC Pam. 525-8-2), Army Leadership (ADRP 6-22) and the U.S. Army Human Dimension Concept (TRADOC Pam. 525-3-7).

John Lilygren, Commandant of the School of Cadet Command, said this is done by emphasizing more of an outcomes-based instruction method

rather than a by the numbers process.

“We wanted to move from more of task-based training to outcome-based,” said Lilygren. “For example, we moved from teaching them just the mechanics of squad-based tactics to start working on critical thinking, problem solving – doing student centric instruction to help them be more dynamic thinkers.”

“There’s an overall benefit for everybody – making sure they have the higher level learning sciences to work on facilitation skills in the classroom and perform on a campus,” he added.

Along with the skills of providing a more interactive learning environment on campus, the instructors also gain a personal benefit – college credits, said Lilygren. Graduate students receive 12 Masters level credits for the residence phase and an additional 12 for the clinicals at their campuses. Undergraduates

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The Cadre & Faculty Development Course consists of a summer 9-week resident phase at Fort Knox, and is followed by fall semester clinicals where the students apply the lessons learned over the summer in the classroom on campus where they teach.



(Left) Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes, commander of U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox, presents Gen. (retired) Carter Ham, former commander, U.S. Africa Command, with a medallion signifying his induction into the ROTC Hall of Fame. (Above) A member of the Army's Golden Knights jumps into Brooks Field on Fort Knox to kick off the Reserve Officers' Training Corps Centennial Celebration Ceremony June 10. (Photos by Michael Maddox)

USACC inducts first group into Hall of Fame

Michael Maddox

Writer/Editor
Cadet Command Public Affairs

FORT KNOX, Ky. – Fort Knox, Ky. – Some of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps most impressive alumni were in attendance today as U.S. Army Cadet Command inducted its first group of former ROTC Cadets into its Hall of Fame during a ceremony on Brooks Field June 10.

Of the 326 former Cadets inducted into the Hall of Fame, more than 100 were in attendance for the ceremony to be recognized for their service to the country.

Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes, commander of U.S. Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox, opened the ceremony by sharing his pride in the role each of the ROTC alumni played in developing leaders for 100 years.

“General George Washington once said, “There is nothing so likely to produce peace as to be well prepared to meet an enemy,” and that is what

ROTC is all about – developing leaders who are prepared, who are ready to meet any enemy, on any battlefield, at any time, and win,” he said. “Army ROTC has had, and continues to have, an exceptionally positive impact on our nation, not just in our defense, but in the development of our citizenry, and much of that credit belongs to the men and women who stand before us today on this field.”

He went on to say it was humbling to learn about the history of each inductee and what they had done with the training they had received at their respective ROTC programs – starting with one of its most well-known alumni.

“When I opened the first folder, I was awestruck and as I sat back in the chair. It was then that it dawned on me the significance of today – I was about to sign the certificate to induct General George C. Marshall into the ROTC National Hall of Fame. I didn't feel qualified,” he said. “The more I

read, the more I signed, I realized each of you and your families are doing everything that I would ever dare ask you to do – that is exactly why you are our founding class of the ROTC National Hall of Fame.”

Gen. (Retired) Carter Ham, former commander of the U.S. Africa Command, was the key note speaker for the event. He shared his story on becoming an officer through ROTC with the crowd.

“I came to ROTC by happenstance. I had enlisted and was serving in the 82nd Airborne Division and had risen to the exalted position of being the battalion command sergeant major's driver,” he said. “One day I saw a note in Soldiers magazine announcing a new program that would allow enlisted Soldiers who had some college to go back to school and gain a commission through ROTC (Green to Gold). Without a whole lot of thought frankly, I filled

Cadet Command welcomes new senior enlisted leader during change of responsibility ceremony

Michael Maddox

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FORT KNOX, Ky. – U.S. Army Cadet Command hosted a change of responsibility for its senior enlisted leader in a formal ceremony as Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Arnold passed the position as the highest noncommissioned officer in the command to Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Kraus, Jr. at Waybur Theater July 28.

Kraus comes to Fort Knox from the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he served as the 13th Regimental Command Sergeant Major. Arnold is heading to the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes, commander, USACC and Fort Knox, presided over the ceremony that transferred responsibility from Arnold to Kraus.

After the ceremonial transfer of an NCO sword, that symbolizes the responsibility the commander places on the command sergeant major, Hughes addressed the audience.

He shared a few thoughts on both of the command sergeants major.

“He (Arnold) has been the stalwart of enforcing the vision of both General Combs and myself. He’s supported the command to make sure the standards are met across this diverse command,” he said. “He epitomizes the standards the Soldiers are expected to uphold in this command and he will be truly missed.”

Hughes said he looks forward to working with Kraus.

“I can clearly see why my predecessor picked this man to



Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Kraus, Jr. speaks to the audience during the U.S. Army Cadet Command Change of Responsibility ceremony held at Waybur Theater July 28. (Photo by Michael Maddox)

become our next command sergeant major. He is exactly the right pick and he has articulated so in many ways to me over the last couple of months,” Hughes said. “He will make a fine addition to the leadership here at Cadet Command.”

After Hughes finished his remarks, he introduced Arnold, who then stepped to the podium. During his comments, Arnold shared his pride in the people who make Cadet Command and Fort Knox successful in their mission.

“Just know that no matter what you do, either directly or indirectly (it) contributes to the mission of building commissioned officers for our Army and better citizens for our nation. What you do everyday matters,” he said.

Afterwards, Kraus said he is looking forward to taking Cadet Command into its next 100 years.

“I will continue to support sergeant major Arnold’s legacy that he’s left with this community and organization by leading with transparency and I will be a constant listener,” he said. “Together we will make this organization, this community and our Army that much better and that much stronger.”

Before arriving at Fort Knox, Kraus prior assignments included service at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Yongsan, Korea; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and three tours at Fort Hood, Texas. He has also deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm/ Desert Shield and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl winners announced

Michael Maddox

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Cadet Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – After three days of competitions against Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Cadets from across the world, two Army JROTC teams were named the victors in their respective categories during the JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl (JLAB), which was held on the campus of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., June 25-27.

JLAB brings together hundreds of JROTC students from each service to participate in challenging leadership activities and in the largest academic bowl in the country.

The Army JROTC team from Gulf Coast High School, Naples, Fla. was named the winner of the Leadership portion of JLAB, and the team from Lyman High School, Longwood, Fla., took the top spot for the Army in Academics.

Cadet Jordan Franks, Lyman High School academic team captain, said winning for the competition was a little unexpected.

"This was our second year in a row of making it to the nationals, so we were ecstatic just about that," he said. "It was just euphoric going through each and every round, and realizing after every single one that we were undefeated - it was almost dreamlike - it was surreal."

Franks said that while he is the team captain, he doesn't take credit for the team's success – it's a product of teamwork.

"We all work together as equals," said Franks. "We just got together and figured out our independent strengths we came together and worked things out. Wonderful team building and great cooperation amongst the team members was key to success."

Greta Medford, chief of education and curriculum for JROTC, and JROTC coordinator for JLAB, said there are many benefits for the Cadets who participate in JLAB activities.

"JLAB is Army JROTC's way of showcasing the academic and leadership portions of our curriculum – so it gives you the whole picture of what we do in JROTC," she said. "We have what we call program outcomes - JLAB supports what they've learned."

"For the academic portion it supports learning in the classroom, as well as their SAT/ACT preparation. The for the leadership teams it supports their drill and ceremony, decision making skills," added Medford.

Medford said the experience takes also broadens the Cadets knowledge base in several ways.



Cadets from Claudia Taylor Johnson High School, San Antonio, work together to move "toxic waste" from one location to another at one of the stations in the Leadership Challenge during JLAB 2016. (Photo by Michael Maddox)

"I think one of the biggest things about coming here for them is meeting other students from across the world," she said. "And being here in DC, they get to actually see the things they've learned about – especially for the leadership team members. They study all of the leaders, so they get the chance to see where policies are actually made, where some of the great leaders are buried and things like that."

"It broadens their views of their possibilities and what they can achieve," she added. "They are meeting kids that are in college, meeting college representatives, they're preparing by taking SAT/ACT type questions - it sets them up for success if they decide to go onto college."

Members of the Lyman High School JROTC Academic Team were: Jordan Franks, Joshua Toth, Anthony Del Palazzo and Angelica Sharkey.

The members of the Gulf Coast High School Leadership Team were: Cole Honnila, Connor McMonigle, Michael Mizell and Andrew Mizell.

SECDEF Ash Carter observes, mentors future leaders at Cadet Summer Training

Michael Maddox

Writer/Editor
Cadet Command Public Affairs

FORT KNOX, Ky. – The leaders of tomorrow’s Army met with one of the leaders of today’s military as Secretary of Defense Ash Carter visited Fort Knox and Cadets completing their Cadet Summer Training (CST) June 22.

During his visit, Carter observed Cadet training, held a Q&A session with Cadets, and had lunch with several Cadets attending CST. Carter started out his Q&A session with the Cadets by sharing some words of wisdom on how Army leaders can stay the world’s leaders in the global community.

“It’s a competitive world out there, and the only way to stay ahead is to keep challenging yourself, keep pushing yourself, keep getting better. That’s the spirit I need for you to have in yourselves, in your leadership and your Army in the future,” he said. “You need a spirit where it’s never good enough to be the best - it’s only good enough to stay the best.”

“We need to be constantly challenging ourselves to do that. One of the things that you are taught here is not only that you can be a great leader, but also the sense of responsibility that comes with the sense of being a Soldier in the United States Army – it’s a very, very big responsibility,” he added.

Along those lines, one Cadet asked the Secretary how America can stay competitive with other nations in terms of national defense. Carter said there are several ways to do that – with a main focus on readiness.

“What we are prioritizing in the Army at the moment is readiness. You



Secretary of Defense Ash Carter speaks to Cadet Summer Training Cadets during his visit to Fort Knox June 22. (Photo by Michael Maddox)

always have to balance force size, force structure, end strength, modernization and readiness in any military investment. In today’s climate your (military) leadership is prioritizing readiness,” he said. “The reason for that, first and foremost, is I never want you to go into combat or any situation where we are counting on you not fully ready. I have tremendous confidence in the people who make up our military.”

Readiness requires preparing tomorrow’s leaders as best the country can with the tools available, said Carter.

“I’ve talked about the force of the future and what it will look like. I created new avenues that you all will have available to give you advanced education and training because in today’s world you don’t just educate yourself and quit – in today’s world you need to be educating yourself right up until the day you die in order to keep up,” he said. “So I need to change the way we do things. The

technology allows us to do more and other kinds of educational training, and I want you to have new opportunities.

“It also adds another dimension that makes military service more attractive, which means you’re more likely to stay. On the other hand, it also makes you more attractive to other employers – which I love on your behalf, but I hate on my behalf because I don’t like to lose good people.”

“We’re also doing a lot to change the equipment and environment for our Soldiers. That’s a revolution that’s going to continue to grow with automation, visualization tools, all of the communications tools available to you – you have the equipment today that division headquarters had 20 years ago in terms of communication equipment,” Carter said. “The key to that is that what you have on your belts today is better than what companies had in the old days. A lot

Cadets prepare for international experience through CULP

Michael Maddox

Writer/Editor
Cadet Command Public Affairs

FORT KNOX, Ky. – Summer break is usually a time for rest, relaxation and possibly a little traveling for many college students.

For Reserve Officers' Training Corps Cadet Twi Light Moody, rest and relaxation weren't on the schedule, but traveling was thanks to the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) program.

Moody, a Griffin, Ga. native, was at Fort Knox preparing to travel to Senegal as a part U.S. Army Cadet Command's CULP program. She is one of more than 1,300 Cadets who will travel across the globe to 43 different countries this summer through the program.

CULP is designed to immerse ROTC Cadets in various languages, cultures and socio-economic situations so they can learn, through training deployments personal experience, said Russ Stinger, CULP chief.

"We deploy Cadets around the world so they can learn about the local culture, culture in general, specific to the country where they are training - all to develop them as better leaders when they become lieutenants," he said. "We do this with a strategic focus of why our nation is engaged in the locations we are and the importance of understanding the people, the politics, and everything that influences the culture where we are conducting operations."

Cadets engage the local communities by taking part in a variety of activities. One of those is being a member of a Cadet English Language Training Team (CELTT) – where Cadets help their hosts practice English.

"A lot of our missions will have a



Cdt. Michael Schulte, Florida A&M University, teaches a student world history in Moshi, Tanzania May 24 while participating in the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency (CULP) program this summer. (Courtesy photo)

CELTT component for a few days to a couple of weeks," said Stinger. "CELTT is very popular with the host nations. From their perspective, it's language training – it gives them the opportunity to practice English."

"We don't go in there and teach English, they will have some level of English proficiency and they want the opportunity to practice and improve," he added. "From our perspective, it's cultural training because all of the topics of discussion that our Cadets are focused on are all cultural topics – families, the military's role in society, sports, etc."

Some CULP missions include military-to-military engagements.

"Mil-to-mil engagements are similar to CELTT, except it's with a host nation military, and they will conduct training with them," said Stinger. "This can include going through a NATO or host nation school."

The last type of mission the Cadets can take part in is humanitarian assistance.

"All of our missions will have an element of humanitarian assistance," he said. "Whether it's something like 'Adopt-A-School' or visiting an orphanage, we do those for a myriad of reasons."

"It's Americans from the U.S. military out there doing good things – we're establishing goodwill. It's also a vehicle for our Cadets to get out in the local population to areas they may not otherwise have the opportunity to go to," said Stinger. "It allows them to work with various aid organizations and local key players and see how they think and act, so we can all work in concert with them."

Cadet Jack Lausch, who will be a junior this fall at Wheaton College, is no stranger to visiting foreign lands.

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(Right) Savannah Walker, from Howard University, Washington, D.C., interviews Cadets about their experiences during Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, Ky. (Photo by Mattie Cook, Cadet Command Public Affairs intern) (Above) Josh Shortt, a Broadcast News major at Western Kentucky University, puts together a news segment Aug. 8 during his internship with the Cadet Command Public Affairs office. (Photo by Michael Maddox)



Interns gain valuable experience at Cadet Summer Training

Michael Maddox

Writer/Editor
Cadet Command Public Affairs

FORT KNOX, Ky. – Thousands of Cadets come through Fort Knox for Cadet Summer Training (CST) each year – allowing them to get hands-on, on the job training for their future roles as the leaders of tomorrow. Little do those Cadets know, they aren’t the only college students on the installation gaining valuable job skills that can be applied in the future.

Each year, the Cadet Command Public Affairs Office employs a small army of interns who are majoring in various communications degree programs. This year, more than 20 college interns from across the country served as journalists, photographers, videographers and social media staff documenting the training the Cadets went through. Rich Patterson, Cadet Command Deputy Chief of Public Affairs and CST Public Affairs Officer, said the intern program benefits everyone involved.

“Trying to cover something the size of Cadet Summer Training is a huge task. We had 17 regiments this past summer - almost 10,000 Cadets coming through Fort Knox for training over three months. So when you only have three trained Public Affairs personnel staff for all of Cadet Command, you have to try to find some innovative ways to be able to cover such a huge training exercise,” he said.

The interns spent roughly three months at Fort Knox, from mid-May to mid-August, producing written articles,

photographs, broadcast stories, live-streaming CST events and managing social media traffic.

Patterson said having the interns practice their trade here has far reaching effects.

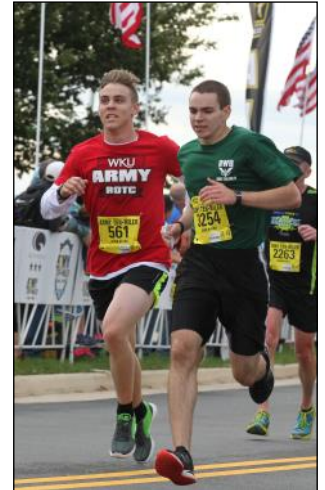
“This helps us meet our mission of reaching out and informing family members and friends of the Cadets, other Cadets who didn’t come to CST, the universities where we have our 275 programs, and local communities where the schools are located and the Cadets are from – it’s basically reaching the American public,” he said.

During their summer here, the interns gain valuable experience in a learning atmosphere.

“I want to create an environment as close as possible to what they will be facing in the job market. At the beginning of the summer they had about two or three assignments a week, because they had to get used to the military lifestyle and how to get around to the training areas,” Patterson said. “But as the summer progressed and their skills progressed, we increased it up to, in some cases, six assignments a week, to increase the pressure on them of working under deadlines. That’s going to be what’s expected of them when they get a job after graduating college.”

Keeping in mind that the interns are in various levels of their education and learning to craft their skills, they work and learn under the supervision of seasoned military photojournalists and broadcasters. The college students were also afforded the opportunity to cross-train in various

Cadet Command represents at the Army Ten-Miler!



Editor's note: Would you like to submit something for the newsletter? Here are a few tips : Keep it concise – 500 to 1000 words. Include the who, what, when, where, why and how. Double check the spelling of names, and include the title of the person named. Action photos are the best compared to award presentation photos. Photos need to be at least 150KB in size, but no larger than 1MB. Identify each person a photo, or at a minimum, the person who is the subject of the photo, with their title included. For questions or comments, contact Michael Maddox at 502-624-4904 or by email at james.m.maddox.civ@mail.mil.

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receive 15 for the residence portion and 12 for clinicals.

“For our Professors of Military Science and Assistant Professors of Military Science, it can get them on the full track for a master’s degree. There is also a big benefit for some of our NCOs who have some college credits or zero,” said Lilygren. “This not only helps them in the classroom, but also with their professional personal development for their Army careers. It gets them on a direct path towards an associates, if they have no credit hours, and working towards a bachelors.”

Lt. Col. Lavern Burkes, Professor of Military Science at Lincoln University, Missouri, said the course has better prepared him as a college professor in several ways.

“My passion is education, so attending CFDC was a phenomenal experience for me,” he said. “First, the course provided me the tools and language to be a key stakeholder when interacting with university administration, which is vital to establishing legitimacy at meetings.

Second, CFDC taught me how to design a course and deliver lessons that are student focused to enable all

learning styles.”

“Overall, the course was life changing and thought provoking, which influenced my decision to earn a master’s degree in higher education administration from the University of Louisville,” added Burkes.

Smith said another benefit of the course is that it also supports one of Maj. Gen. Christopher Hughes’, commander of U.S. Army Cadet Command, main goals.

“I’ve heard him say several times that his number one priority is to produce high-quality second lieutenants, and his second priority is cadre and faculty development because he ties the quality of his faculty to the quality of the second lieutenants,” said Smith. “I think there’s a connection between this development program, the quality of it, and the CG’s second priority.”

During the summer residence phase graduation, Hughes praised the CFDC students for their initiative to grow as instructors and leaders.

“I believe you are not the only beneficiaries of your hard work. I believe your future Cadets, your Soldiers, your families and yourselves

will be the beneficiaries for many years to come. This will not only improve your careers, but it will also improve your lives,” he said.

“Our Cadets are not the only commodity we produce at Cadet Command. If I do my job right, each and every one of you will become leaders of Soldiers, leaders of Soldiers that are critical to the Army,” Hughes added. “You will be more critically involved and possess new found methods of problem solving and developing multiple solutions to those problems. Our best operational commanders should seek out and recruit you for their formations because you now possess the tools to become some of the best leader developers in the United States Army.”

CFDC will be held each summer during college summer break periods. Officers and NCOs who are SROTC program instructors are eligible to enroll in future CFDC classes, but must have at least 18-months retainability upon completion of the course. Each brigade is allotted a number of seats in each CFDC, and the brigades will then coordinate which staff will attend.

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out the form and sent it in, and promptly forgot about it.”

Ham said later when he was contacted as a result of that note, he almost passed up the opportunity that would change his life forever. But thanks to some encouraging advice from his sergeant major, he took up the challenge to become an Army officer.

“I was not going to do it. I had just become eligible to appear before the promotion board for sergeant and that’s what I wanted to do,” said Ham. “It (ROTC) turned out to be exactly the right choice for me. I found my calling to serve as an Army officer.”

Ham said it was an honor to serve his country, and to be a part of the first group inducted into the ROTC National Hall of Fame.

“We are simply 326 representatives of 650,000 Army ROTC graduates – examples of what ROTC has done for our Army and for our nation for 100 years,” he said. “Officers commissioned through ROTC bring a depth and

breadth of experiences to the ranks which make the Army stronger.”

“Whether they serve for a few years or for many, ROTC graduates make a difference across our Army and across our nation. They have done so for 100 years and will continue to do so for another 100.”

He also recognized the value of the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps.

“The immense benefit to the nation from Junior ROTC is that those students and Cadets not only become better leaders, they become better citizens. In my view, that’s a highly worthy investment,” he said.

He finished his comments by reminding the inductees of their place in history.

“Each of us has our own story, but for me and for all so honored today, we can say with honesty, with sincerity and great pride, our stories, our legends started with ROTC,” he said.

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of stuff is changing and we have to be on the cutting edge of that in our society.”

Along with the best technology, Carter said it takes the best people to take advantage of that and add to America’s history of being a leader.

“We need to continue to draw from all of our society. I don’t want a cross section of the American people – I want the best – I want to pick and choose from an all-volunteer force,” he said. “I get to pick from everybody and that’s good for us, and good for our Army. We need excellence, honor, and the trust of the profession of arms in a changing world.”

Another Cadet in the audience asked Carter how he plans to continue to keep the force ready in a time of shrinking defense budgets.

“We have a large defense budget – I’m grateful to the country, I’m grateful to the tax payers, I think we try to give them an excellent value,” he said. “I’m a stickler on how we spend our money because if they (the

American people) don’t have confidence that we know what we are doing with their money, they aren’t going to give us the amount that we need to protect them.

“With that said, I am frustrated with the gridlock in Washington - it leads to a very “herky-jerky” budget department,” he explained. “We try as best we can to manage in that environment, to limit the instability as it effects the force, because our leaders need to have a rough visibility into their budgeting future to build the force the way they need to. And our individual services members need financial stability in their lives so that they’ll stick with us.

“The reality is we have a lot of gridlock and I’m hoping we get over that. We will do our best and Soldier on – we manage through everything, I just hope people can come together and get through the gridlock and give the country a defense budget the people deserve when they pay their taxes,” added Carter.

Carter also thanked the Cadets for volunteering to be the future leaders of the Army, and for being the best of the best.

“I am so proud of you guys, our whole country is proud of you, and you should be proud of yourselves. There is nothing better than contributing to the noblest of missions as a young person in the army does, and that is protecting our people and leaving a better world - that’s what you do,” he said. “I say that because you wouldn’t be here if you weren’t good at what you do. I’m proud of our country because we have the brightest fighting force in the world has ever known and the reason for that is our people.

“The reason we are the best is because of you. One of my jobs as secretary of defense is to make sure I leave to my successor a force as fine as the one that I came into. That means I need to make sure that the folks in my generation are followed by people who are the best – that’s what you represent.”

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He’s been to Kenya, Israel, Australia and the Dominican Republic through various programs.

He said he was interested in experiencing the military aspect of going on his CULP mission to Senegal.

“I’ve been on a lot of international travels before, but applied for CULP because I wanted to see what traveling in the military is like and how we interact with the host nations,” he said. “I’m excited because I want to go in with an open mind about what I can learn and see, especially because it’s something completely different than what I’ve experienced before. I just like learning about the people and their culture.”

Cadets interested going on a CULP mission must apply through the Army Cadet Portal after missions locations are announced September. Only contracted Cadets can apply. They are then notified toward the end of the semester if they have been accepted and where they will be traveling.

Stinger said the Cadets do get to provide their preferences on where which nation they would like to serve in. He added, having skills or experience for in relation to nation is also considered.

“Depending on any language or regional expertise that they may have, we assign Cadets to a country to capitalize on that expertise,” he said.

After selection they are assigned training to learn about the country of their deployment, as well as basic level training courses that every other Soldier deploying to that region must complete, like anti-terrorism, Survival-Evasion-Resistance and Escape (SERE), and survival phrases.

Once the semester is over, they come to Fort Knox to go through a Soldier Readiness Processing Center, just any other deploying Soldier would – receiving a cultural block of instruction and taking part in group discussions before completing final checks and heading out on their mission.

This will be Moody’s first international experience. The junior from the University of Georgia said she is ready and eager to head to Africa.

“I signed up for CULP partly because I’ve never been out of the country - I haven’t really met anyone who hasn’t grown up in Georgia their entire life,” she explained. “I thought this would be really good training that would really help round me out as an officer.”

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communications positions during the summer.

Patterson said the cross-training is something many communications practitioners may find helpful in an environment of shrinking budgets and staff.

“It’s important because as news media these days, many times they are the only individual to come out and they are expected to do everything,” he said.

Wenqing Yan, a senior in Indiana University Bloomington’s journalism program, said not only did she sharpen her writing skills, but also enjoyed the exposure to photography and videography.

“I think the biggest thing I will be taking back to school is how to better organize a story and how to write about the military,” said Yan. “I think I have also really learned how video and photography fit into covering something. Because of that, now when I go to an event I have a better idea of what kind of shots I need – especially when I do both the writing and the photography for an event.”

Besides being provided with free housing on the installation, paid travel to come to Fort Knox and a monthly stipend, the interns also get experience in a military environment.

“The vast majority of the interns had never set foot on a military installation, and for them to see how we train our young future leaders of the Army, and to have that experience around the military and the discipline, was a huge benefit to help the interns grow,” said Patterson.

Altaf Nanavati, 20, a junior at the University of Tennessee Journalism and Electronic Media major, said that type of exposure has helped him build confidence when speaking with story sources.

“I thought this was perfect because I’ve had no exposure to the Army at all, so I thought it would be something new that I hadn’t experienced before,” said Nanavati. “I used to be really nervous about contacting story sources because I would always think they are higher up than me, even if it was just a college professor. Now I’ve done interviews with sergeants, and drill sergeants and officers, I’ve learned to not be scared to ask questions or being curious.”

The interns were also invited to participate in some of the training the Cadets complete as part of CST.

“They were able to negotiate the 64-foot rappel tower, go through the leadership reaction courses where they worked together as a team to figure out how to complete a task, enter the NBC (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) chamber to shoot photos inside and to see what it’s like to be exposed to that,” Patterson explained. “None of that was mandatory, but something fun to do.”

The Public Affairs interns also gained exposure to high level, executive individuals who visit the training. They

met, and in some cases, interviewed officials like the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army, four-star general officers and senior business leaders from across the country.

Everything the interns see and do during the summer culminates into a once in a lifetime experience that can only enhance their careers as they move into the job market.

“The products that they produce here are being published. They have products that they can take back to their university and put into their portfolios as they are looking for civilian jobs,” explained Patterson. “They also have opportunities, no guarantees, that the products they are putting together are not only published here, but could also be published throughout America. That’s something a lot of their peers may not have.”

Josh Shortt, who is majoring in Broadcast News at Western Kentucky University, said his experience as a Public Affairs intern has really encouraged him to grow as a broadcaster.

“I thought this internship would be very good for my career and I was right – it helped me out a lot. I also thought it would be interesting to learn more about the Army,” Shortt said.

“I had no broadcast experience before I got here. The most I had done was working at a local radio station where I help businesses get their commercials on the air. I had done nothing with editing, videography or working with a camera – so that was all new to me,” he said. “I learned so much thanks to help from the Cadre, they never gave up on me. They would sit there and help me for hours until I really started to get the hang of it.”

Shortt said he feels ready for his next semester of broadcasting classes.

“When I go back to school, I’m probably going to take some video editing classes, and I feel like I’ll be ahead of the game. I’ll maybe even help some other people out and share some of the advice I got here,” he said. “I would recommend people sign up for this internship because it’s very beneficial and a great experience.”

Nanavati echoed Shortt’s sentiments.

“For the people who are thinking of taking this internship, I would recommend they do because it’s not just a good opportunity to get exposure to the military, but also to learn more about how to tell a story properly,” he said. “I thought I was good at video, but I learned so much here.”

This fall, the command will be reaching out to universities to advertise the internship for 2017. Applications, which need to be submitted in March, must have a cover letter, resume, and samples of work products.