



# LEADER

"Leader's Training Course: Let Us Take You There"

Vol. XXX, No. 3

Eastern Region(ROTC)  
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## Cadets jump into Leader's Training Course with rappelling

Pages 4, 5

## Outside the wire

• LOS ANGELES -- Former President Ronald Reagan died Saturday, June 5 in his home. He was 93 and had been struggling with Alzheimer's disease for 10 years. A national day of mourning was held on Friday, June 11. American flags everywhere will be flown at half-mast for 30 days.

• FORT BRAGG, N.C. -- Former President George H.W. Bush celebrated his 80th birthday Sunday, June 13 when he parachuted twice onto the presidential library's grounds. Bush's leaps were made tandem, as he jumped strapped to a member of the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute team.

• CULVER CITY, CALIF. -- Thursday, June 5 the 2004 MTV Movie Awards aired. Actress Uma Thurman left the stage with an award for "Best Female Performance" for her role in "Kill Bill." Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler were awarded "Best Onscreen Team" for "50 First Dates." Johnny Depp won "Best Male Performance" for "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl." Lindsay Lohan stole the show after hosting the event and taking home an award for "Breakthrough Performance" in her role for "Freaky Friday."

• WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. Army's 229th birthday was celebrated Monday, June 14, along with Flag Day.

• KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- Crews have worked around the clock to restore power to thousands of residents in the Midwest. At least six tornadoes touched down in Kansas, along with many others in the Midwestern region.



Cadets march to their barracks after receiving supplies for training. Cadets were given PT uniforms among other items.

Photos by Lydelle Abbott and Jesse Lebus/staff photographers

## Inprocessing kicks off LTC; summer to remember

**Bobby Harrell**  
staff writer

Students from around the country have come to Fort Knox to participate in the Leader's Training Course. Cadet Albert Casillas, D/1-46, Austin Peay University, was among the men and women who lined up luggage and duffle bags under the tent marked "ROTC." Casillas said he felt nervous getting off the bus at LTC, but wasn't the only one.

Cadet Deirdre Walcott, D 1-46, Angelo State University, was hesitant when she arrived.

"I was scared out of my britches, but I'm ready to go," she said.

Like many ROTC cadets, Casillas and Walcott came for more than team building exercises and weapons training. While waiting for his physical training uniforms at an informational briefing, Casillas said he hoped to be commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. so he could provide for his wife and two children. Walcott also wants to make friends who are more motivated than regular college students.

The informational briefing detailed the type of paperwork the cadets would fill out on their first day. Capt. Ramona Bellard, the G1, discussed what cadets could and could not have at LTC. Bellard explained the rules on body piercing, hair length, dress code, alcohol, tobacco and cellular phones.

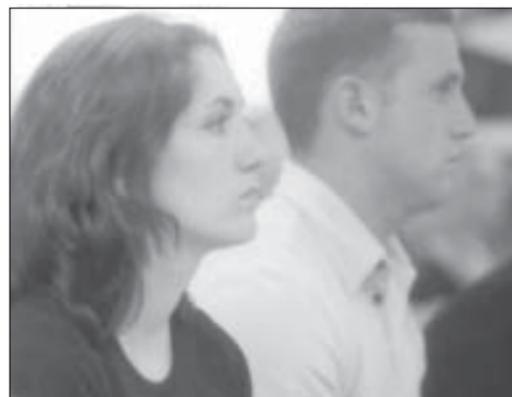
Cadets also completed a safe arrival card that was mailed to their parents telling them that their cadet made it to LTC without incident.

Even though graduation is a month away, cadets addressed invitations to their loved ones.

Capt. Kelly Longenecker, Medical Liaison Officer, reminded the cadets to stay hydrated and maintain a healthy diet while at LTC.

"Drink water, lots and lots of water," she said.

After the briefing, cadets were given two PT uniforms and a 30 minute phone card. Changing from



civilian clothing into uniforms helped the cadets complete their transformation. At an adjacent building, cadets gave their ROTC records to Army personnel for verification.

"[We] check to see if they are supposed to be here," Bellard said.

Next, cadets made travel arrangements for after graduation. Graduation plans must be made before the cadets begin their training because processing is a one time event, Bellard said. Paperwork not completed on the first day of processing would be done the next day.

Longenecker said the cadet's medical records were also reviewed to see if they needed a physical.

Physicals are required if cadets do not get them prior to LTC. Each cadet needed to provide information on whom to contact in case of an emergency. Any medication cadets bring to LTC is kept by the m and given when needed.

The cadets also received \$20 pay the second day of processing. Another \$80 was distributed later that week. A picture ID card was made for each cadet, displaying important information like their social security number and blood type.

Once processing was over, cadets were introduced to the drill sergeants who would be in charge of them for the first three days.

The sergeants ordered the cadets to empty their bags onto the ground in front of their barracks. Bags were checked for contraband items such as alcohol, tobacco products, cellular phones and pocket knives, which would be returned at off duty times.

A sergeant asked if there were any other items not allowed. Cadet Rick Gonzalez, University of Texas- Pan American, asked if an AM/FM radio was contraband. The sergeant shook his head and ordered Gonzalez to do ten push-ups.

Before meeting the drill sergeants, Cadet Alyssa Wood, D 1-46, St. Nordert College, said she wasn't ready for the vocal coaching the sergeants use to teach the cadets how to act in the Army. Wood, however, did have a strategy.

"My philosophy is, if I do it right the first time, maybe I won't get yelled at," she said.

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# CADET TALK

Shelley Cook: "What do you expect from your experience at LTC?"

## Future Leaders ...

By Col. Robert J. Frusha

Leader's Training Course Commander

As the saying goes, "first impressions are everything." From my observations so far, I am extremely impressed with the performance of each and every one of you.

Your approach to the challenges we have placed before you here at the Leader's Training Course have been met with high levels of energy and enthusiasm, which I know have enabled many of you to work towards achieving those personal goals you have set for yourselves.

To the newest arrivals to the Leader's Training Course, I challenge you to maintain the same level of energy and enthusiasm your fellow classmates have. I guarantee that your days and nights here at Fort Knox and the Leader's Training Course will be exciting, challenging and fun.

In the Welcome Issue of this newspaper, I stated that I would use this forum as an opportunity to discuss leadership and officership. This week I will touch upon leadership.

### Leadership

This is what this course is all about. From the beginning, we have, and will, place each of you in various leadership positions. Undoubtedly, many of you felt uncomfortable performing in these leadership positions. This is natural, as this is your first real experience with the many responsibilities associated with being a squad or platoon leader.

You must realize and understand that this is the initial step for everyone who has ever trained to become a leader in the Army. The Army defines leadership as "a process by which a soldier influences others to accomplish a mission." To do so, you must be able to communicate, motivate and respect those you are leading.

### Communication

As a leader you must learn to communicate effectively to accomplish any given mission. I am sure you now have a better understanding of how critical it is to communicate your intent during your time in a leadership position. It is vital that your intent as the leader is clearly understood so that in the event you are unable to complete the mission it is clear to your platoon members what the goals and objectives were, and the mission can continue uninterrupted.

### Motivation

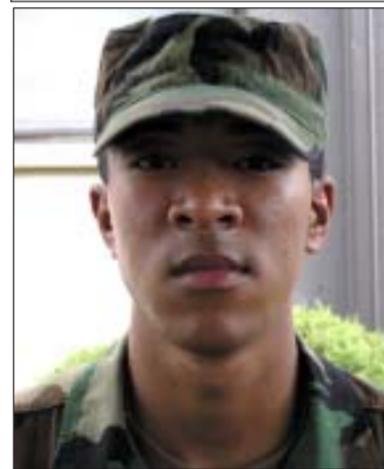
You, as a leader, must possess self-motivation. If you are passionate about the mission, and exude enthusiasm, then you will inspire others to follow. Even under the most extreme of conditions, all leaders must possess the strength and self-motivation necessary to motivate their soldiers and accomplish the mission.

### Respect

As a leader you must treat your subordinates in the same manner you expect to be treated ... with dignity and respect. You must establish a mutual bond of trust and respect. If your subordinates trust and respect you, and know that you have that same trust and respect in their abilities, they will be loyal and perform above your expectations.

Remember, a true leader will earn the respect and admiration of their subordinates...it can't be something that you demand because of the rank you wear, or the leadership position you are in.

I leave you with this thought: We've all heard the phrase, "he is a born leader." In reality, very few people are born with the necessary skills to lead. The Leader's Training Course is your opportunity to acquire those tools necessary to become an effective leader, an Army officer and the future of our country.



**Jarrell Horsely,**  
Norfolk State  
University  
3/B/1-46

"When you say LTC I think of getting my mind physically and mentally prepared to lead in the future. There is going to be a lot of physical and mental work while we're here ... and a lot of running."



**Erich Schnee**  
Auburn University  
3/B/1-46

"I had a semester of ROTC last semester so I know what to expect from this training but I want to reinforce what I learned in college, making sure I get it right for next year when I become an MS 3."



**Theresa Giorno**  
University of Wisconsin-  
Madison  
3/D/1-46

"I hope the FTX, especially the high ropes course, makes me learn to depend on support from my team. I had a year to prepare for this in school and now I want to get the training I need to go out and be the best leader I can be."



**Dean Chuang**  
Gonzaga University  
4/D/1-46

"I'm going to law school and clients want a confident leader. If things go wrong, they don't want you to lose your composure in the courtroom. I want to learn self control."

## REACHING GOALS



Shelley Cook/ staff photographer

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# Drill Sergeants; a glimpse into life, training, toughness

**Tucker Lieberman**  
staff writer

They are always on your cases — advising proper form in Physical Training, shouting orders in Drill and Ceremony, keeping an eye on your safety as you negotiate the Teamwork Development Course, announcing successes and staring at you while you eat. How is it possible for your drill sergeants to be everywhere all the time? Don't they ever sleep?

Staff Sgt. Terry Williams, 1/D/1-46, said he works 18 hours a day, seven days a week. "You'd be surprised how much mentoring you have to do to future soldiers," he said, "and how many unofficial hours you put into your job to make it successful."

Sgt. First Class James Lewis, 3/D/1-46, said he didn't have a chance to go home the first night of the Leader's Training Course (LTC). "You get a nap every night. If you get four hours, you're doing good."

There are 14 drill sergeants in Delta Company. Three males are assigned to each of the four platoons, and two females float between platoons as needed. Staff Sgt. Sara Smith said part of her goal is to give the female cadets "a little mentorship, and to let them see a female being in the same position as a male."

The women are also present in case a female cadet has a sensitive issue she would rather discuss with a female drill sergeant.

Drill sergeants teach the most basic and essential things future leaders need to know, including weapons training, which will take place later this summer. LTC begins with a focus on marching. It appears nearly effortless from a distance, but takes practice, as the cadets realize by now.

When Staff Sgt. Kathy Cade taught cadets in Delta Company's 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon the proper way to "About Face"—turning around 180 degrees—she explained and demonstrated how the toe they pivot on should be kept no more than about four inches behind the stationary foot. This is to avoid stress to the spine.

On the other side of the drill area, Staff Sgt. Eric Butler was yelling at 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon. "When I say to turn right, you don't take another step, you just do it," he said.

"Even though D&C [Drill and Ceremony] is kind of basic, I think it's

crucial to the Army," said Cadet Paul Lee, 3/D/1-46, who has already taken one year of ROTC at Rutgers University. "When someone does it, you can see where it comes from inside them. It's reflective of your own personal standards: how you lead the soldiers, how you present yourself, your attention to detail, your direction."

Williams said the cadets are in a leadership position and are expected to behave appropriately. Disobedience is often corrected by physical exercises like push-ups. Severe cases may be referred to the cadet's squad tactical officer, who can issue demerits.

"If you're not perfect, the drill sergeants get on your case," said Cadet Dustin Schmaltz of Northeastern University, 3/D/1-46, pointing out that the Drill and Ceremony footwork can be tricky if a cadet's legs are tired.

Drill sergeants are examples of leadership and success. Not everyone qualifies for their position. They have been selected from the top ten percent of their military occupational specialty. Otherwise, if they volunteered for the job, they either had attained the grade of E-6 or had a letter of recommendation from their commanders.

They trained intensively in drill sergeant school for two months. Upon graduation, they received a two-year assignment (recently, due to the war, this is often extended for a third year), and are now earning an extra \$375 per month.

After they complete their assignment, they will return to the job they had before. Lewis, for example, was a non-commissioned officer who worked in jails, and will return to that job when his term as a drill sergeant is completed.

Williams said the responsibility of training soldiers for war was a big change in his leadership responsibilities. "You've got to make sure it's the right training, and that everyone can understand what you're saying," he said, noting that he often deals with people who haven't yet acclimated to the military. "You can't treat all of them the same. Drill sergeant school teaches you how to be a 'people person.'"

After the annual ROTC LTC ends in July, the drill sergeants will return to training privates. The privates' training is more "warrior-focused" and does not include



Staff Sgt. Sara Smith begins leading cadets in training during their first day of Inprocessing. Photos by Jesse Lebus/staff photographer

many of the teamwork, leadership and confidence activities the cadets will do this summer, such as the ropes course and the water crossing.

Cadet Brian Jones, 1/D/1-46, of Lincoln University, has four friends serving here at Fort Knox who have already been commissioned. He thought he would be able to face a drill sergeant fearlessly, but admitted, "Once they get in your face, you get intimidated." He compared his drill sergeant to "the Energizer Bunny — his batteries just keep going."

Although drill sergeants' power may appear to be divinely sanctioned, their authority is limited. They have had background checks and answer to the First Sergeant and to the commander.

Part of the drill sergeants' job is to keep cadets healthy and safe. This is apparent when they order them to stay hydrated. "Beat the heat, drill sergeant, beat the heat!" the cadets respond as they have been instructed to do, swigging water and then placing their canteens on the ground.

"Everyone wearing this hat has been there, getting yelled at. Everybody remembers their drill sergeant," said Lewis, who went through Basic Training 18 years ago. "We want to see the kids succeed, we want to see them do good. But we're not going to pat them on the back and rub their head. We want to push them," he added.

"Don't let something that is strange and new beat you," Smith advised. She said it is common for people to make a few mistakes before they finally succeed. Cadet Julia Sanders, 1/D/1-46, from Auburn University, said she doesn't mind taking orders but is challenged by the aggressiveness of the delivery. Her strategy, she said, is to "try not to take it personal."

Williams looks forward to the bonding that will happen as the LTC progresses. That, he said, is when everything he's teaching his cadets will come together for them.

## Learning by doing: Bravo's introduction to Drill and Ceremony



**Tucker Lieberman**  
staff writer

Two days after arriving at Fort Knox, Bravo Company cadets marched back and forth under the shade of a large tree outside the barracks, practicing steps and turns in their Battle Dress Uniforms. One of the Army's most essential skills and disciplines, Drill and Ceremony is the basic method by which troops travel on foot, using standardized steps.

Staff Sgt. Earl Ivory, a drill sergeant assigned to Bravo Company's 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, and Staff Sgt. Pam Bleuel, a drill sergeant who floats between Bravo platoons as needed, spent the day in the drill area teaching D&C to the company. The drill sergeants taught half of Bravo Company at a time, while the other half negotiated the Teamwork Development Course.

"My D&C is kind of raggedy; hopefully

this will square me away," said Cadet Belinda Trevillion (4/B/1-46) from South Carolina State University. "At school, we'll spend five minutes on D&C. Here, it's more thorough."

Cadet Patrick Leonard (4/B/1-46) from James Madison University comes from a military family and recently decided he was "up to the challenge" of the ROTC program. After his first experience with D&C, he reflected: "It wasn't what I expected. You don't get many chances to get it right. You have to pay really close attention."

Ivory repeatedly advised cadets that while their marching needs to be precise, their gait should be relaxed. As an example of how not to march, he demonstrated a gait that looked like the stiff swagger of a cowboy who had just gotten off a horse. "Your arms are going to swing naturally.

Don't think about it too much—just march!" he concluded. "Hooah?"

"Hooah!" the cadets responded.

After each new command was introduced, the drill sergeants elaborated on the technique as much as necessary until all cadets were performing correctly and in unison. "Thirty inches from heel to toe, not thirty inches between your feet! You're not doing a split!" Ivory said, clarifying the "thirty-inch step."

"I think it's awesome," said Cadet David Belcher (3/B/1-46) from Marshall University, during a break from the exercises. "I'm having a great time, I really am. All the drill sergeants are real helpful. All the cadets are working real hard."

Cadet Kyle Maki (2/B/1-46) from the University of Tennessee-Martin, who has

See DRILL AND CEREMONY, page 8

# Jumping to new heights: C



Few experiences at the Leader's Training Course will build cadets' confidence in their peers, leaders and themselves as rappelling down a 37 foot helicopter skid did.

On June 5, each of the Delta company cadets learned to tie rope on them into a seat and bound down two 37-foot walls while trusting that their own newly-learned skills and the safety checks from the officers would keep them safe.

Monica Vallone, 3/D/1-46, from the University of Tampa, said this is an experience she would never have had in the civilian world.

"I like the thrill," Vallone said. "It's like a high. Once you get halfway down, everything is calm and cool. They tell you what to do and if you do it you're fine. [You] take a deep breath and do it. Once you look back, it's awesome."

Only 15 percent of the cadets at LTC have experienced rappelling before the on

site training, according to the officer in charge Lt. Col. Erick Van Vliet.

Van Vliet told the cadets in an introduction speech at the course that rappelling is to go from a high point to a low point as quickly and safely as possible.

During this training, each cadet is required to successfully tie an overhand knot and a square knot and learn the bowline and Swiss seat.

The cadets bounded down a 19 foot wall at a 45 degree angle and then moved on to the 37 foot wall at 90 degree angle and the helicopter skid simulator. The skid simulator forced the cadets to jump away from a platform and fall to the ground without touching the wall.

"They basically tell you that if you don't jump, you'll smash your head," said Kendra Ask-Carlson, 4/D/1-46, from Lock Haven University. Ask-Carlson said she would do the jumps again if she had the opportunity because she trusts her officer's instructions.

LTC cadets rappell because it builds competence and confidence, according to Barron. It also instills



# cadets rappel at LTC

Story by Shelley Cook/staff writer  
Photos by Jesse Lebus and Lydelle Abbott  
staff photographers

confidence in self, peers and cadre which is important to future training, according to Van Vliet. "Later on in their training they can think, 'Hey, I rappelled with that guy, and they will trust him.'"

For some cadets, jumping was more difficult than just trusting in the safety.

Nick Cox, 4/D/1-46, from Kennesaw State University said, "The Swiss seats hurts a lot."

Cox completed all three rappelling missions safely and smiled as he explained how he bumped his head on the wall coming down the 37 foot skid because he did not jump out from the wall far enough.

This is the first real team building exercise for cadets who come to LTC with a broad spectrum of capabilities, according to director of training Sgt. Maj. Byron Barron.

"They tie the knot that holds them in the seat, the officers check the seat for errors and they know the cadets are there to make sure they are safe," Barron said.

Cadets on the ground held ropes to ensure a safe dissension as they cheered to their peers about to rappel above them. But not all the cadets were confident in their new skills.

"Jumping with just a rope tied around me doesn't sound like a good idea," said

Justin Bergen, 2/D/1-46, from Southern Illinois-Edwardsville.

Fellow platoon member Albert Casillas from Austin Peay State University pitched in, "I don't know how safe something I tied myself is."

At the end of the day, Cadet Mitchell Hunt, 4/D/1-46, from Jacksonville State University reflected on his experiences saying the first two steps off the top of the 37 foot flat wall are the hardest but trusting in his new skills and confidence.

"The best part is the freefall," said Hunt. "It's just a rush, knowing it's you and the rope. You are in your own hands. If you mess up, it's on you."



# Ceremony 'guides' cadets through future leadership, training

**Bobby Harrell**  
staff writer

In military formation, a guidon flag identifies the name and position of a company of soldiers on the field to the commanding staff. During the Guidon Ceremony, cadets identify themselves in much the same manner.

After three days under the direct guidance of drill sergeants, cadets meet their ROTC cadre for the first time and are given the responsibility of leading themselves. The history of the 46<sup>th</sup> infantry and the values of the Army will now rest with the cadets.

The Guidon ceremony establishes a cadet chain of command, Maj. Rich Kostecki, Company Tactical Officer, said. During the ceremony, cadets took the parade positions of their commanders at the front of Delta and Bravo companies as platoon leaders, platoon sergeants, First Sergeants and Company Commanders.

Cadet Deirdre Walcott, D/1/46, Angelo State University, said she had little experience before being chosen as first and second platoon leader by her drill sergeant, but would do the best job she possible could.

Bravo and Delta company's missions also changed at the ceremony, shifting away from basic combat training to support of the cadet command and the ROTC.

The cadets also received Army identification and value tags from their platoon tactical officers. Each tag represented the Army's core values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

The cadets then placed their tags on the "Discover Gold" platoon board. Once their training is complete, cadets will keep their tags permanently, reminding them of the values they must live by.

Kostecki said he considers the core values to be extremely important.

"If you lack one of those, you're ineffective," he said.

Company Commander Capt. Nathan Deforest also spoke at the ceremony, congratulating the cadets on their progression from scholar to warrior. He also acknowledged the conflict overseas.

"We are an Army at war, and your service to your nation at this difficult time distinguishes you as a stand out among your peers," he said. Deforest also reminded cadets of the code they should strive to embody as future lieutenants: Mission First, Never Quit, Never Accept Defeat and Never Leave a Fallen Comrade. An extensive history lies behind the guidon and those who bear it. The Army has used the guidon since the country's beginning.

In 1778, the newly formed Army was trained in maneuvers and tactics by Baron Friedrich von Steuben, a former Prussian officer. Kostecki said the guidon was used as a way of keeping commanders in sync with their troops before the invention of radios. He also said the cadets have a responsibility to protect and serve the guidon.

Cadet James Lienau, D/1/46, St. Norbert College, 4<sup>th</sup> platoon's guidon bearer, said that the guidon is the symbol of the past, present and future leaders of the Army.

"To me, it represents all the people who came before me," he said.

Kostecki said the drill sergeants usually chose the guidon bearers who have the best timing in their drill practices and look competent.

Staff Sgt. Terry Williams, a drill sergeant for D/1/46, said he looks for guidon bearers who are the same height and weight as each other.

The 46<sup>th</sup> infantry has had a long and famous career of its own. The unit first saw action in World War II as the 46<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry, participating in the invasion of Normandy and the liberation of France.

The 46<sup>th</sup> has been deactivated and reactivated several times since then. In 1987, the 46<sup>th</sup> became an ROTC training unit.



Jesse Lebus/staff photographer



Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer



Jesse Lebus/staff photographer



Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer



Jesse Lebus/staff photographer

# Davis gets sent to the ‘chamber,’ helps cadets settle in



2nd Lt. Stephanie Davis prepares for the busy weeks of LTC.  
Shelley Cook/staff photographer

**Kim Dishler**  
staff writer

For 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Stephanie Davis, finance officer, braving CS (tear) gas, represented a significant moment in her career.

That's because during Davis' time at Fort Lewis she had to go into the gas chamber as part of an exercise, which required her to enter with a gas mask on, then remove it to state her name and company. That task, along with the Slide for Life, made her realize she could handle being an officer.

"You had to slide down a 50-foot rope and drop into a river," she said of the Slide for Life. "I didn't want to let go. It was an experience I'll never forget."

Davis, a Hampton University graduate with a degree in finance, received her commission on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

"It (the commission ceremony) was overwhelming," Davis said. "To be the first in my family to graduate and be an officer was great. My mom and dad were there to put my bars on."

Although she said she has a huge family with many members enlisted in the military, she is the first to become an officer.

"I'm encouraging them to do the ROTC program. I'm doing things I never thought I'd get the chance to do," Davis said.

Davis' mother was on active duty before becoming a reservist, and eventually retired as a staff sergeant. Though her mother never pushed her to join the Army, Davis knew it might be a good opportunity.

"She said it was a great way to get experience and see the world, but she also encouraged me to do whatever I wanted," she said.

Davis grew up in Columbia, S.C., and took four years of JROTC while in high school.

"I already knew drill and ceremony, map reading, how to wear a uniform and things like that, so it was definitely an advantage," she said.

She received a four-year ROTC scholarship at Hampton. Though she did not attend LTC herself, she believes the camp has many benefits.

"I wish I came to LTC because you get to see what its (the Army) like, and it better prepares you for what you'll see at Fort Lewis, so you know what to expect," Davis said. "It's a definite advantage."

"LTC is challenging, but it's worth it. You accomplish things you never thought you could," she said.

Although balancing school and ROTC is challenging, Davis believed it helped get her priorities in perspective.

"I think having ROTC on my plate pushed me to work harder to achieve everything I wanted to," she said.

During LTC, she is working in personnel and administration as the pay officer. She also deals with cadre strength, which includes detailing how many cadets are at LTC each day and is responsible for cadre and cadet awards.

After LTC is over, Davis will go to Officer Basic Course at Fort Jackson in August. When that is complete, she will be stationed in Korea for a year. While in the Army, she hopes to further her education and get her MBA in finance.

Davis said her family and friends are proud of her accomplishments in the Army, and are even surprised at some of the things she has had to do, such as the gas chamber.

"They're like, 'You did that?' Everything you do only makes you stronger," she said.

# Porter smiles her way into LTC; following mother's footsteps

**Sarah J. Sharifi**  
assistant editor

Lyneka Porter, a Company A cadet from the University of Alabama, cannot stop smiling. She said she must be careful because her permanent smile, as she calls it, was inherited from her mother.

"My mom always got in trouble in the military for smiling too much," she said. "Every time a drill sergeant caught her smiling she had to give him pushups. I bet she had to do hundreds."

All Porter's classmates from U of A knew her. In addition to her unmistakable smile, she was editor in chief of her high school paper, Student Government Association president, vice president of her class, a cheerleader and No. 11 of her graduating class.

"No one ever expected me to join the Army," she said. "Some people have the impression that people in the military are less scholastic, but that is not true."

Porter comes from a military family with military values, she said. Her mother, two uncles and aunt all served time in the military. One of her uncles served as a recruiter; the other was enlisted for several years. She said her aunt recently retired as a Master Sergeant.

"Family conversations get very political," Porter said. "Everyone is loud and wants to be heard. Things get hot and heated"

Porter's mother, Sgt. First Class Tammy Harris, joined the Army after she became pregnant at the age of 19. Porter said she remembers living with her mother on different posts throughout her childhood.

"I'm a military brat and I love it," she said. "I loved meeting new people in different states, but I especially enjoyed learning new accents and fashion trends."

Porter said she thinks she learned faster and developed a more mature attitude from living in the military. "It took a lot of adaptation," she added.

As Porter got older, her mother served in Desert Storm while she lived with her aunt in Colorado. Before Porter began high school, her mother became a reservist so she could live with her mother. After Porter graduated, her mother reenlisted.

It was following her mother's footsteps that made Porter want to join the army. She joined an ROTC program in high school and wanted to enlist.

"My mom told me to go to college and get a degree first. She advised me to join ROTC while I was still in school," she said. "I realized that the military was a great fallback."

Porter said the ROTC program is tough, so when she gets down she remembers her mother's advice. She said her mother once told her to think of her training as a game where the military is trying to get everyone to succeed.

"My mom is my support through all of this," Porter said. "Mom said to stick it out because it will help me in the end."

Porter said she was extremely nervous before coming to LTC at Fort Knox.

"I am having a lot of fun. But I try to remember that it is all a mind game that you must be mentally strong to survive," she said.

After becoming an officer, Porter plans to pursue a career in sports broadcasting as a reserve component in her civilian life. "But if I can stay in the military until I retire, I would love it," she added.



Cadet Porter shows her excitement for her training at LTC. Jesse Lebus/staff photographer



Porter feels self-conscious about her smile, but agrees it was inherited from her mother, a Sgt. First Class.

Jesse Lebus/staff photographer

# Smith prepared for LTC; field training helps in course

**Beth Wilberding**  
staff writer

At some point in most college students' careers, they choose to take a job or internship that will prepare them for their future in the "real world." Cadets at the Leader's Training Course are no different.

Virginia State University B-146 Stephanie Smith said she decided to participate in LTC to learn more about army life and to see if she liked it.

"I needed to find out if I really wanted to be in the army," Smith said. "This seems like a good opportunity to figure it out."

Smith said she thinks LTC will help her "build up on more leader skills and confidence, and a better understanding of army life."

But Smith has already gotten a taste of army life. She has participated in the Field Training Exercise (FTX) that her college organizes once a semester. With FTX, Smith lived in barracks and participated in army training, including rappelling — an event she enjoyed at LTC.

According to Smith, FTX helped her prepare for LTC, making the transition to army life less difficult.

[I've had a heads up with FTX,] she said. [(The transition) wasn't anything because of some of the stuff I'd already done.]

And if she decides to join the army, Smith said she's not concerned about working in a predominantly male organization.

"I think a female is stronger mentally and physically," Smith said.

In her first week at LTC, Smith said she and the rest of her platoon have bonded, and the males in the company treat the females "likes we're other soldiers."

"They don't treat us differently because we're girls ... we crack jokes," she said. "My battle buddy and I connected."

One aspect of the army that Smith likes is the different variety of jobs offered. She said that by working in the armed forces, she would have people to "help and support her."

Smith said she would like to work in a medical field as a nurse, and then maybe even become a doctor.

"I like to help people," she said. "And I'd like to help the people who serve our country."

Smith is getting practice for her future in medicine by working as a trainer for Virginia State's football team.

Along with working for the football team, Smith plays the cello and plans on getting more involved on her campus.

She also has her family's support behind her. Her grandfather was in the army. However, she said they do worry that she'll some day be sent into a war zone.

"They don't want me to get sent to Iraq," Smith said. "I kind of look at it as if it's your time to go, it's your time to go."



Lydelle Abbott/staff photographer

# LNOs; taking care of LTC cadets, indirectly



Master Sgt. Ron McCauley enjoys his job as LNO.

Shelley Cook/staff photographer

**Beth Wilberding**  
staff writer

When cadets begin their summer at Leader's Training Course, there are a number of problems they could encounter. Some will have medical issues or missing paperwork. If these problems occur, cadets need to contact their schools.

However, with training going on, most cadets don't have the time to call their universities. Liaison officers (LNOs) are at LTC to take some of the burden off cadets.

Master Sgt. Ron McCauley from Wagener University said the main job of the LNOs is to be a "liaison between cadets attending LTC and their schools, and also a link between the chain of command here."

He said the cadets might see the LNOs job as "transparent" because they don't have much personal contact with the cadets.

"They don't really come to us," McCauley said.

"We've got to find out where they are." Master Sgt. Brenda Williams from the University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff does administrative work with the LNOs.

"I don't really deal with cadets," she said.

One of Williams' responsibilities is to contact schools about the cadets. Occasionally a cadet won't report to LTC, and she calls the schools to find out why the cadet is missing.

McCauley said they sometimes have to find out if a cadet is scheduled to be at LTC, and if so, why they haven't reported. LNOs also have to contact cadets' universities to get missing paperwork or to update them on their students.

Besides taking an administrative role, LNOs work with other problems the cadets may have. Master Sgt. Kenneth Lee from New Mexico Military Institute said cadets receive a briefing when they arrive about what LNOs do and a notebook with contact information.

During the briefing, cadets are told the LNOs are there if they have a problem. But LNOs stress that cadets should call their company's chain of command before contacting them.

"If they have a problem that can't be resolved with the company chain of command," he said, "we step in."

Cadets can call the LNO office or make an appointment to meet in person.

McCauley said the entire LTC command works together to help the cadets.

"If there's a problem, we all fix it," he said.

## DRILL AND CEREMONY, from page 3

D&C, which the drill sergeants organize into eight educational units.

"A couple of the movements were a little more tricky than others," said Cadet James Chang (1/B/1-46) from St. John's University, who was doing D&C for the first time. "I feel like it builds your basic mechanics of movement very well, so in that sense I feel like I'm advancing."

Cadet Alexis Jackson (2/B/1-46) from Virginia State University said the exercise "was very constructive. I think if you didn't have it quite right, you have it now."

The intricacies of D&C lent themselves easily to a game the drill sergeants called "Last Man Standing," which is similar to "Simon Says." Cadets had to wait for the full command lest they be caught moving too soon.

After most players had been eliminated, the cadets divided into teams behind three representatives who obeyed the sergeants' commands under intense scrutiny.

The winning team cheered wildly for their leader, while the losing teams ran a short lap around the drill area.

Cadet Barry Pemberton (2/B/1-46) from Minnesota State University-Moorhead said that "about face" was the most challenging command because it took the most coordination and balance. Cadets must pivot 180 degrees on one foot without leaning or stepping out of place.

Pemberton came to LTC because he realized he had reached a point in his life when it was time to focus and make decisions about his career. "I am still green," he admitted, knowing he'll soon acclimate to Army life. "People will walk up to you on the street and ask you what you did this summer. ROTC School! They've got to respect that."

Chris Teel (3/B/1-46), a graduate student from Northeastern State University in Oklahoma, was exploring options for military education when he learned about ROTC and signed up for the summer. "This is my first exposure to the military, ever," he said. "I have a totally newfound respect for the soldiers who are defending our country."

Standing by the entrance to the barracks, keeping an eye on the cadets who were enjoying a break, Bleuel said, "You can tell the ones who want to learn. There's people here for all the right reasons."



Cadets in formation practice proper drill moves.

Jesse Lebus/staff photographer