Game offers chance for All-American outreach to leaders, educators

The Cadet

U.S. Army Cadet Command's quarterly magazine Spring 2013 Vol. IV Issue I

A JROTC Cadet and a Gonzaga assistant professor are making their marks by having overcome adversity in different ways. They share inspirational ...

Stories of DETERMINATION

Marshall plan

Annual seminar makes lifelong impact on Cadet Command's top students

Effective instruction

5 tips for making the most out of the classroom experience

FEBRUARY 2013
Volume 4
Issue 1
Spring edition

From left, 2nd Lts. Rockne Belmonte of Northern Michigan University, Ashley Rodriguez of St. Mary's University and James Wingard of the University of Texas-San Antonio pose together at the Alamdome Jan. 5. *Photo by Steve Arel*

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(Right) Capt. Scotty Smiley, assistant professor of military science at Gonzaga University. *Photo by Rajah Bose*

The Cadet

The official magazine of U.S. Army Cadet Command
www.cadetcommand.army.mil

www.army.mil/rotc

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The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the public affairs officer, U.S. Army Cadet Command.

Spreading the word

Cadets, cadre in perfect positions to share the story of ROTC with those in positions of influence

The Army kicked off 2013 in tremendous fashion by hosting the All-American Bowl, the annual high school football all-star game in San Antonio. The event, held the first week of January, is a showcase for some of the best athletes and marching band musicians in the nation, but more importantly the game provides a conduit for the Army to highlight to the public who we are, what we do and how we do it.

At the AAB, the command's senior leadership team meets one-on-one with civilian leaders and educators to tell them what the Army is all about. Last month, these community leaders received an opportunity to see why the Army remains the best-manned, best-equipped, best-trained and best-led force in the world.

Our goal is to educate local community leaders about career options and scholarship opportunities for local youth who otherwise may never learn about them. We then ask these local leaders and educators to go back to their communities and spread the word about the U.S. Army.

I ask you to do the same.

Community leaders and educators are vital in helping articulate the Army story, but the Cadets and cadre involved with Army ROTC every day are our best pitchmen.

You are in a unique position to tell our story, to convey what it's like to be a leader or future leader in America's Army. Unlike many Soldiers, you spend your days surrounded by private citizens, including college students and academic leaders who otherwise might not be exposed to the Army mission. These are exactly the people we want to reach.

People in a position to influence today's youth should know being an Army officer is part of a proud and honorable tradition of service to the nation. Army commissioned officers are educated professionals of character who lead units of men and women and plan and direct their operations. They are experts in their field, held to the highest standards of ethics and conduct.

The profession of Army officer is among those Americans most respect and admire.

I ask you to get the word out that being an Army officer is a great long-term career option, and we want those who possess the qualities of scholar-athlete-leaders to be among our ranks.

Many in the public consider military service in tight economic times as something of a financial safety net. Others see the military as a place to rehabilitate those walking the wrong path. Research shows that most, however, look at the military as a means to serve their country, develop themselves personally and professionally and make a difference.

Regardless of what drives someone to the military, being a successful and effective officer requires the right mix of skills and traits. The public needs to know this – and much more.

Officers earn competitive pay and benefits. The starting salary for a second lieutenant is greater than $43,000 a year, with free healthcare and paid vacations. That's extremely comparable to entry positions in the private sector.

What is truly an eye-opener to many outside of the military is the Army features 29 branches, 21 functional areas and 190 job specialties from which to choose, including medicine, IT and engineering. Nearly any job available in the civilian world is available in the Army.

Ask someone outside the military who grants the most scholarships in America, and they'll likely rattle off the names of universities or national education groups. The answer: the U.S. Army, and specifically, Army ROTC.

A large number of Americans have no idea about these benefits. Spreading the word builds support for what we do and also increases the number of candidates from whom we can recruit.

How can you help our efforts in spreading the word? There are formal opportunities, such as volunteering to speak to local organizations about the Army. But most opportunities are informal, through everyday interactions.

Nearly every interaction you have on or off campus is an opportunity to educate the public and to tell the Army story.

Maj. Gen. Jefforey A. Smith
Commanding General
U.S. Army Cadet Command

Va. Cadet earns prestigious Rhodes Scholarship

An ROTC Cadet who is one of the newest Rhodes Scholars wasn't sure he stood much of a chance of receiving the prestigious honor after he applied this fall.

"I had told my parents that I didn't see how I could win, given how talented all the other finalists were," Joseph Riley said.

But the University of Virginia senior's credentials proved just as strong. The 22-year-old was named one of 32 American Rhodes Scholars in late November and will begin studying at the famed Oxford University in October.

Riley

Winners were selected from a pool of 838 candidates nominated by their colleges and universities. Riley is the first Army ROTC Cadet to earn the scholarship since 2009.

The scholarships fully fund two or three years of study at the University of Oxford in England. Rhodes Scholars are chosen not only for their outstanding scholarly achievements, but also for their character, commitment to others and to the common good and for their potential for leadership in whatever domains their careers may lead.

At a glance

Other recent ROTC Cadets who are previous Rhodes Scholars:

- *Roxanne Bras, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, commissioned June 2009*
- *Katharine Buzicky, Princeton University, commissioned June 2002*
- *Robert Chamberlain, University of Kansas, commissioned May 2002*
- *Stephen Hammer, Princeton University, commissioned June 2009*
- *Westley Moore, Valley Forge Military College, commissioned May 1998.*

Riley, who is majoring in Mandarin Chinese and is in the honors program in government and foreign affairs, ranked 10th on ROTC's 2012-13 National Order of Merit List. He is co-authoring a book on Sino-American relations and has done field research on Chinese mineral extraction industries in Africa.

Riley has attended the Army's Airborne and Air Assault schools and founded an organization to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project. He also has completed an internship with the National Ground Intelligence Center.

At the University of Virginia, he was elected to the university's Student Government and Honor Committee and started the Alexander Hamilton Society, a national organization focused on fostering foreign policy debate and discussions on college campuses.

Riley plans to complete a master's and doctorate in international relations at Oxford and later serve as an Army infantry officer.

Riley credits ROTC for preparing him to tackle Oxford's rigorous academics. ROTC helps instill the confidence and skills needed to set high goals and work toward accomplishing those goals, he said.

"It also gives Cadets a host of leadership development opportunities that help develop them as leaders and lifelong learners," he said.

Lt. Col. Mike Binetti, the professor of military science at Virginia, described Riley as the epitome of a future Army leader.

"His willingness to embrace a critical language and develop himself into a fluent and globally aware officer is exactly the type of initiative and self-awareness we need in our future officers," Binetti said.

Though he was set to commission in May, Riley will be on an educational delay while at Oxford and will commission in 2016.

Once Riley finishes at Oxford and commissions, his goal is to serve as a platoon leader and company commander. He would also like to teach at West Point in the Social Sciences Department.

"Ultimately, I hope to spend as much of my career as possible leading troops," Riley said, "but at times I would like to work in capacities that allow me to help the Army develop its grand strategy."

Fla. International training enhanced with $350,000 obstacle course

FELLSMERE, Fla. – A new $350,000 obstacle course that opened in December will serve ROTC Cadets at the Florida Institute of Technology, as well as the Army.

Even though the official open house ceremony for the course won't happen until this year, FIT officials were excited to get a jumpstart recently with their student Soldiers.

"Before we only trained about once or twice a year with the rappel tower and rock climbing wall," said Maj. Troy Glassman, professor of military science at FIT. "So this adds to it tremendously."

The course features five sections with 26 individual elements, such as the confidence climb, a 40-foot ladder, a skyscraper tower, as well as a swinging ropes and many other components.

"It's a process where Cadets are getting exercise, but also building strength, endurance and confidence," said Frank Kinney, FIT's vice president for research. "Everybody has to work together because it's very challenging and team-building where everyone puts their own skills to good use and operates as a team - it's a confidence course."

The Fellsmere City Council approved construction of the five-acre training facility in December 2011. While the site will primarily be used by FIT, it also will be eventually available for rent to the public.

Sitting inside the northeastern section of the city-owned preserve and visible from Interstate 95, in less than a year what was once a plot of land with a single rappel tower and rock climbing wall for Cadets has shaped into a full-fledged challenge course.

While the preference of the facility is for the ROTC program and Army, corporate groups and other organizations eventually will get the opportunity to rent it. The proceeds will be divided between Fellsmere and FIT.

"We really are catering to two worlds," said Timothy Fletcher, FIT manager of the course. "The ROTC and military worlds, but also the private and public world who want to get the same type of value out of the course as it does for the Cadets."

Officials with both the city and FIT agree the course is an addition that's responsibly emphasizing and fostering Fellsmere's development.

"The key is that it's a unique feature to the whole trailhead that's being developed by the city because unlike any other location in this region, it will provide an opportunity for all types of events," Kinney said.

6th Brigade Ranger Challenge finalizes Sandhurst ROTC field

The ROTC field for the annual Sandhurst Competition is set.

Georgia Southern University rounded out the division last month after winning the 6th Brigade Ranger Challenge Jan. 25 at Camp Blanding, Fla. The school beat Florida State University, which had won the event the last two years, and finished second.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University took third.

Cadets with Jacksonville State University work together to pull their Zodiac boat from the water during competition in January's 6th Brigade Ranger Challenge at Camp Blanding, Fla. The competition was won by Georgia Southern University. *Submitted photo*

Each of Cadet Command's eight brigades will be represented at the competition, which is scheduled for April 19-20 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Besides Georgia Southern, the attending programs will be:

First Brigade: Texas A&M Team 1

Second Brigade: Penn State University

Third Brigade: University of North Dakota

Fourth Brigade: Appalachian State University

Fifth Brigade: Brigham Young University

Seventh Brigade: East Tennessee State University *(The brigade winner published in the December 2012 edition of The Cadet was incorrect.)*

Eighth Brigade: University of Hawaii

Some 55 teams total square off in the competition that tests participants physically and mentally. The competition sports international flair. The field includes squads from Canada, Chile, Spain and Australia.

Teams from Britain traditionally dominate the event. In fact, until 2011, a British squad topped the field for 17 straight years. A West Point team has won the last two years.

Since ROTC teams began competing in 1992, none has ever won.

The competition began in 1967 with the presentation of a sword by the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, England, to West Point to use as the prize in a competition that promotes military excellence. The Sandhurst Competition is an intense event that challenges participants to work together and use their ingenuity, leadership and physical drive to overcome obstacles involving land navigation, first aid, combat fitness and decision-making.

JROTC teams ready for 2nd drill meet

Douglas MacArthur High School looks to repeat as Army JROTC's top drill team when the second Army National Drill Championships are held in April.

The San Antonio program swept both the armed and unarmed divisions last year, dominating a 71-team field that included perennial power and national champion Francis Lewis (N.Y.) High School.

The 2013 event will be held April 6 at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Ky.

After years of debate, officials with U.S. Army Cadet Command decided in 2011 to discontinue region meets in favor of one that would crown a true Army national champion. Slots for the Army Nationals are divvied among the seven brigades with JROTC and based on the number of programs within the brigade footprint. The field for this spring was still being finalized as of press time.

The intent is to hold the Army national meet the last Saturday of March. However, conflicts with spring breaks at some schools and other events in the Louisville area pushed back this year's competition.

Deputy commander nominated for promotion to brigadier general

Col. Erik Peterson, Cadet Command's deputy commander, has been nominated by President Barack Obama for promotion to the rank of brigadier general.

The announcement was made in mid December by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta. The nomination must now be confirmed by Congress.

Peterson joined Cadet Command in August, replacing Brig. Gen. Peggy Combs. Combs, now commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., received her nomination to brigadier general shortly after joining the command in 2011.

Peterson

Peterson is a 1986 ROTC commissionee from the University of Idaho. He also is a 1984 graduate of Basic Camp, the predecessor to the Leader's Training Course, at Fort Knox, Ky.

Peterson, an aviator, has served in a variety of roles during his career. Among them are platoon leader and company commander, adjutant and battalion S-3, battalion executive officer and special operations aviation observer controller. He was director of the Flight Concepts Division at Fort Eustis, Va.

He also was brigade commander for the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade and chief of staff for the 10th Mountain Division (LI) at Fort Drum, N.Y. Peterson served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Uphold Democracy, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Peterson's awards and decorations include two Legions of Merit, six Bronze Star Medals, five Meritorious Service Medals, the Air Medal with V device and numeral 5, the NATO Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, Master Aviator Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge and Australian Parachutist Badge.

Holiday decorations

Images from some of U.S. Army Cadet Command's December commissioning ceremonies

Cadets at the University of North Georgia participate in a consecration ceremony prior to commissioning. *Submitted photo*

(Above, middle) University of Missouri Cadet Jamar Williams has his ranked pinned on by family members. *Photo by Kile Brewer/The Missiourian* **(Above) Cadets commissioning at the University of Memphis prepare to slice a cake commemorating the event.** *Submitted photo* **(Right) Cadet Rachel Kim sings the national anthem during the University of Hawaii at Manoa's commissioning on the deck of the USS Missouri.** *Submitted photo*

For additional images, see the online photo gallery at http://smu.gs/X5WGOU.

5 Ways to become a more effective instructor

What makes a great teacher? Is it an outgoing personality, an advanced degree in education or perhaps years of teaching experience? One could argue these attributes are useful to the highly effective teacher, but the true answer has nothing to do with any of them.

The best teachers are passionate and enthusiastic about training tomorrow's leaders. They are capable of getting students excited about learning, and they know how to motivate students to think and excel.

Like great leaders, highly effective Army ROTC instructors are not born. They develop the professional skills required to reach students on a much higher level than the average college professor by providing sage counsel and guidance Cadets will remember when they become officers. This influence will sustain an officer corps ready to serve the nation for the next 30 years.

Unfortunately, Army ROTC instructors don't have the luxury of developing highly effective teaching skills over time. Our cadre must quickly grasp the curriculum learning objectives and begin developing Cadets almost immediately, a daunting and somewhat unfair task. However, with patience, listening, individual study and mentorship, instructors can quickly catch on to what is called "the art of teaching."

Here are some simple tips for cadre to consider in developing teaching skills.

1 Find a mentor and meet with that person regularly. The dean of your college or a fellow cadre member might direct you where to look for the right counselor. Look for someone with at least five years of teaching experience who can relate to your situation and who's willing to spend some time to help make you a great teacher. Participate in faculty development opportunities on campus. Since all Army ROTC units have numerous partner schools, many faculty development opportunities are available.

2 Develop meaningful professional relationships with your students. Do you know them by name? Names are important and provide people a strong sense of identity. Good teachers take the time to know students by name. This helps build the teacher-student connection, a vital component to lowering barriers that may hinder learning from the student's perspective. Making the connection with each of your students may take a little time in the beginning, but will pay off with superior performance and significant learning.

3 Confidence is important. Instructors need to thoroughly understand the subject matter they're teaching, but they don't have to know every single detail. Students will respond to a relaxed, easy going instructor who exudes confidence much quicker than to one who's nervous, defensive or insecure. Use your students to help teach class by asking open-ended questions and generating group discussion. The objective is student learning; whatever teaching technique works to attain student learning and meeting the educational outcome is your mission.

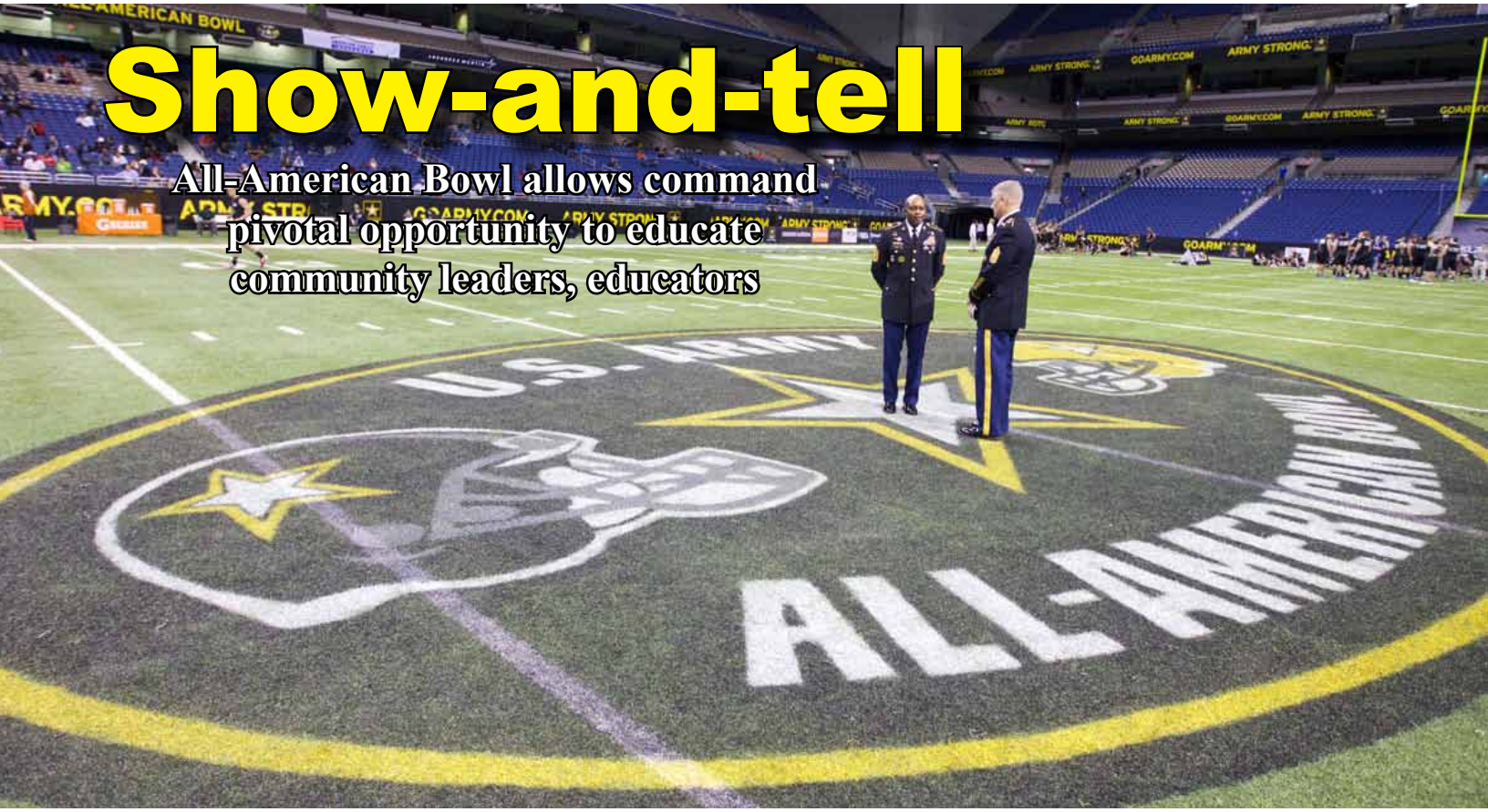
4 Become a master of body language. Experts say most communication is nonverbal, so the ability to effectively communicate nonverbally is a powerful tool to assist you in connecting with students and expressing what you mean. Since body language is unconsciously conveyed, you may consider using videotape or the critique from a fellow cadre member to obtain feedback on negative nonverbal actions.

5 Supplement curriculum course work by using current events to help provide perspective. Students will appreciate creative, exciting, fresh and relevant information. Applying current events to the Army ROTC curriculum isn't difficult. Plan lessons with fellow cadre members to generate ideas and discuss ways to incorporate current events. Make the information yours, and tailor the content for your current students. Each group will be different and will need your help to make it significant for them.

For additional tips or advice on how to become a highly effective Army ROTC instructor, contact Dr. Rick Swain, dean of academics at Cadet Command, at (502) 624-0126, or email richard.w.swain.civ@mail.mil.

Show-and-tell

All-American Bowl allows command pivotal opportunity to educate community leaders, educators



(Above) Cadet Command Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Howard, left, spent some time talking with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Ray Chandler during the All-American Bowl National Combine about Cadet Command and its programs. (Below) James Johnson, coach of USA Wrestling, ejects a shell from his shotgun during a January shoot at the San Antonio Gun Club. *Photos by Steve Arel*

By Steve Arel
U.S. Army Cadet Command

SAN ANTONIO – Que Tucker couldn't contain her excitement in January as she used a shotgun for the first time at the San Antonio Gun Club, taking aim and managing to obliterate a couple of orange-colored clay targets spiraling from a chute into the air.

After all, she hadn't handled a weapon since she was a little girl taking down tin cans with her father's pistol decades ago.

Just as exciting, the deputy commissioner with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association in Chapel Hill said, was the reason she was in San Antonio: to learn about what makes the Army the strongest team in the world and about opportunities available to those who wish to be part of it.

Tucker was among nearly three dozen community leaders and educators who were invited by U.S. Army Cadet Command to attend All-American Bowl week activities last month and to learn about the Army and ROTC specifically. They were part of a contingent of men and women in positions of influence within communities nationwide who have been targeted as people who can help articulate the Army's story to the American public and to prospective Army leaders.

Over several days, the VIPs toured the Center for the Intrepid where many wounded warriors are treated, ate alongside Soldiers in a Fort Sam Houston dining facility and parachuted with the famed Golden Knights. They interacted with command leadership, receiving an education about how the Army and ROTC develops people and discussing ways in which they can assist in changing mindsets back home.

Though the North Carolina High School Athletic Association already has a partnership with the Army, Tucker

said the Army is still largely misunderstood.

"So many people think it's all about going to war," she said. "But there are so many other things the Army is all about, and it's not really a last resort (for those with no other career options). With our partnership, we're trying to help promote that."

Some of the community leaders and educators said they want to help America's Army by not necessarily recruiting, but by simply connecting young people with opportunities to serve.

Part of successfully doing that is knowing what all the Army has to offer. Though Mike Pischner, director of military veterans affairs at Florida International University, served in the Army, he hasn't been a Soldier in 30 years.

Over that time, the Army has undergone considerable change. Its uniforms are different. Its Soldiers are more educated. Its weaponry is more advanced.

And its view of social practices transformed. For instance, Pischner, who spent six years as an air traffic controller, remembers when beer machines were as common as soda machines in unit dayrooms.

"They've quit all that stuff," he said. "It's a completely different Army. Even the mess halls are completely different. It's really good food."

Of particular interest to Pischner was getting a chance to see the latest Army innovations, many of which were spotlighted in the Army Strong Zone outside the Alamodome. As much as anything, he wanted to network with fellow community leaders and educators and trade ideas about how to better promote the Army.

Florida International has some 1,500 veterans within its student population. Pischner hoped the week's experience would help him better relate to them and others looking for opportunities.

"All people really see of the military is what they see on TV, and it's not always the best side," he said. "They're reporting on suicides and homelessness. There's a whole lot of different stuff than that."

Those like Tucker were excited about seeing the nation's top high school football players compete at the Alamodome, but also in continuing a healthy dialogue with the Army.

"Experience is always the best teacher in most instances," Tucker said. "When you can experience something firsthand, you're able to go back and say, 'Let me tell you what I know,' as opposed to, 'Let me tell you what I heard or read.' Having been here and just experiencing this part of it – the marksmanship and how even that brings more awareness to the Army – that's been eye-opening. I'm excited about the possibilities to look at all those avenues and articulate that in a real personal way."

Rockne Belmonte, a Cadet and kicker for Northern Michigan University, shares a laugh with Tim Teykl, head coach of B.F. Terry (N.J.) High School, before the two filmed a piece at the Alamodome in San Antonio for NBC focusing on Belmonte's success. *Photo by Steve Arel*

North Michigan Cadet with NFL aspirations gets AAB spotlight

By Rachael Tolliver
U.S. Army Cadet Command

They took up soccer first. But when his brother broke a football scoreboard one day booting a ball during a tryout, they switched sports and never looked back.

And now Rockne Belmonte, a record-setting kicker for Northern Michigan University and an Army ROTC Cadet, has the opportunity to make his childhood dream a reality. He will participate in a regional National Football League combine this month and has received invites to showcase his talent for a shot at playing professionally with the Arena and Indoor football leagues as well.

"Everyone I have met so far says I have a serious shot, and I have a big leg to get me there," Belmonte said.

But he has two dreams. And if he has his way, he will pursue both.

"I graduated with honors (in December) from NMU. ... But my plan is to do everything I can to take my shot at the NFL while still fulfilling my service to the Army," Belmonte said. "I was assessed as active Army, although I am hoping to get a job playing football and switch to the (Army Reserve) so I can continue to participate in the two passions I have."

Belmonte found himself in the spotlight last month at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio. The Cadet helped tell the Army story to community leaders and educators, prospective collegiate players and even a national audience, taping a segment with NBC Sports that highlighted his success and aired during the Jan. 5 broadcast.

His mission culminated with him being commissioned on the Alamodome field just prior to kickoff. His parents, Bob and Pamela Belmonte, pinned his shoulder

BELMONTE, continued on page 19

BLIND AMBITION

After Capt. Scotty Smiley lost his sight following an explosion in Iraq, he wondered whether he would be able to continue serving his country. Today, as an assistant professor of military science at Gonzaga University is showing future leaders how to succeed.

Story by Jacob Bennett, *U.S. Army Cadet Command*

After the bomb, Capt. Scotty Smiley feared the Army wouldn't have a spot for a blind infantryman.

He could no longer use a weapon, which ruled him out of many jobs in his chosen branch. As he recovered from a roadside bomb in Mosul, Iraq, that stole his sight in 2005, he wondered: Would the Army accept him? Did he even believe in himself and his own abilities, now that he was blind?

"Being blind was very scary, to not know where I'm going, not know who I'm talking to," Smiley said. "The Army is a constant 'prove yourself' organization - and not just the Army, every organization. You have to prove yourself. You're questioned that much more, being blind.

"You can't just stay in and not do something; you have to have a job. As an infantry officer, where was my position in the world?"

But once he decided to stay in, the Army did have a place for him, and he continued to prove himself in a variety of roles. His most recent assignment is at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., where since April he has served as the executive officer for the Bulldog Battalion. And it turned out he is a natural at showing people the way.

"He's good at taking the curriculum and being able to put out scenarios to keep everyone engaged, and at guiding the discussion along to facilitate self-learning," said Lt. Col. David Bingham, the professor of military science at Gonzaga.

Smiley's listening ability helps him understand where people are coming from, then guide them to understanding, Bingham said.

"I'll volunteer this: I'm not off the charts with IQ," Smiley said. "But I know how I learn best, and I know how to break it down. My knowledge base is still there: I still know how to do all those things. There's nothing that holds me back from teaching it."

Smiley said his world is "totally black," so he can't see if his Cadets are successfully executing squad training or field training exercises, but he can hear it.

He can hear how far apart his Cadets' footsteps are and know if they are in a good formation for their surroundings, or if they are putting themselves at risk for machine guns or grenades. He can listen to their pace count to tell if his students are executing their mission successfully. Non-commissioned officers will also walk with Smiley and point out details he can't see, but he says it's not so tough to hear what they're doing.

"It's not like we have trained hunters; they're freshmen and sophomores beginning their military training," Smiley said.

The last thing Smiley saw was an explosion. He was leading a Stryker patrol in Mosul, Iraq, on the day he lost his sight. He was a platoon leader with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division, and he spotted a suspicious-looking car weighted down in the back — a potential car bomb. Still in the turret of his Stryker, Smiley was roughly 30 yards away from the Opel car. He ordered the driver to get out of the vehicle and fired warning shots when the driver did not.

The driver lifted his hands off the wheel. The car exploded.

Shrapnel tore into both of Smiley's eyes. At a nearby medical center, Smiley temporarily flatlined.

Surgery couldn't save his sight. Depressed and questioning what his life was worth, he faced a choice: He could lie in bed, or he could get up.

He got up. And he kept climbing until he literally stood at the summit of Mount Rainier.

But none of it was easy. He needed months of rehabilitation to learn to navigate a world of what he called perpetual night.

He had to learn to walk using a stick to guide him. He needs points of reference — for example, he needs to know he's on a sidewalk, and he doesn't know that unless he can feel grass on one side and a curb on another. He needs to memorize how many paces until he turns left, and if he overshoots it, he has to re-trace his steps, if he can.

Incidentally, this is a challenge on Gonzaga's 125-year-old campus, where many of the sidewalks are made of brick and the cracks between them grab his stick. Often if he needs to go somewhere on campus, he has to hold a buddy's elbow.

Smiley has always been athletic — a swimmer, a runner and a biker, plus he played center, linebacker and special teams for his senior–year 1998 high school state championship football team — and he didn't want to give that up.

After the accident, he surfed in Hawaii, skydived, skied in Vail, Colo., and completed a triathlon.

In 2007, representatives from Camp Patriot, a nonprofit that takes disabled veterans on outdoor adventures, invited him to join them to climb Mount Rainier.

He compared the climb to the 10-mile road march in Rang-

SMILEY, continued on page 20

Photo by Rajah Bose, Gonzaga University

Photo by Steve Arel

Brainerd High School's Torrey Sales has become a familiar face around Chattanooga, Tenn. – he recently graced a city billboard. On the cusp of graduating near the top of his class, a life-changing choice years ago solidified his path to success.

Sold on Sales

Story by Steve Arel
U.S. Army Cadet Command

A peculiar philosophy exists among some students at Brainerd High School. Somehow, mediocre classroom performance equates to social intelligence.

In this misguided state, popularity and acceptance are the curriculum too many are interested in studying.

Brainerd, on the outskirts of Chattanooga, Tenn., is a school lauded for its community partnerships and focus on student achievement. But, like most schools, it grapples with its share of students focused on a different agenda – students who try to foster an environment where mediocre grades elicit reinforcing chuckles from classmates, inappropriate behavior strengthens reputations and the future focuses more on escaping the cloud of education than on the pursuit of a college degree.

Torrey Sales knows the game all too well. And he decided not to play.

As an eighth-grader preparing for his high school career, Sales took account of his life – where he had been, where he wanted to be and how he was going to get there.

The eldest of eight children in a single-parent household, Sales knew there were some challenges within his life he couldn't really affect. But there were many he could, namely the influence of friends with whom he surrounded himself.

Those friends – some of them lifelong – didn't share his vision for excellence. They didn't share his ambition

for accomplishment. They didn't share his drive to make a meaningful contribution to society.

Sales didn't speak of his intention with his friends.

He didn't bring them together. He didn't detail his plan.

He just did his own thing.

Without them.

"His reputation precedes him," first-year Brainerd Principal Uras Agee III said. "You don't have to know him to *know* him. He makes excelling cool."

It seems everybody knows Torrey Sales, a soft-spoken 18-year-old senior JROTC Cadet who has long screamed success through his performance in the classroom and in life. His knack for achievement and flair for organization are what those who know him say help make Sales such a standout.

That's why Brainerd administrators routinely turn to Sales – currently the salutatorian of his class with a 3.939 GPA – to represent the 745-member student body and interact with visiting VIPs. That's why a Chattanooga non-profit group that advocates youth achievement featured Sales in a promotional campaign in which his photo was plastered on billboards around the city and why he's called on to share his story with local children as a mentor.

That's why the senior Army instructor for Brainerd's Junior ROTC program tapped him as this year's Cadet battalion commander. And that's why Sales was selected over hundreds of other students last summer to introduce the guest speaker at the culminating event of the JROTC National Junior Leadership and Academic Bowl held at George Mason University in Virginia.

"Torrey's always quiet and reserved," said retired Maj. Wilford Blowe, Brainerd's SAI. "He's not loud and boisterous, or like he has to be seen. It's only an initial impression. But when called upon, he can certainly rise to the occasion."

Sales' siblings range in age from 2 to 14. Growing up, his mother, who is disabled, relied on him to help tend to their needs – and still does.

The demands of his family forced Sales into a de facto leadership role within his home.

"I never really had a chance to be a child," he said.

But Sales doesn't necessarily consider it a disadvantage. He doesn't complain or express remorse over missing out on playful activities other kids his age enjoyed, because he had obligations to his family. Instead, he sees the role in which he was placed as part of life. His family needed him.

Being a leader at home is largely what made JROTC attractive to Sales. He believed the citizenship, character and professional development program could make him an even stronger leader.

Joining as a freshman, Sales said the lessons taught in JROTC quickly led to widespread positive impacts on his life. He learned to prioritize. He learned to work more quickly. He learned to focus.

"It motivated me to want to get to the top," he said.

Sales' selection as Brainerd's Cadet battalion commander this year was somewhat of an easy choice, Blowe said.

Besides JLAB, Sales is a member of the program's rifle, Raider and drill teams. But he has proven to be much more to the other 100 or so Cadets, Blowe said.

Sales often is looked up to by younger students, and he influences them, if not directly, then by simply setting an example in his studies, in how he treats others and in how he carries himself.

Blowe calls Sales the second-best Cadet he's had in the program since it started in 1994. The only reason he's not No. 1: "This young man (from 2002) was a real go-getter. It was almost like JROTC was his life. He lived here," Blowe said.

Sales, though, has an edge in several areas. For one, he's more academically focused.

"Though he spends a lot of time here, his life doesn't revolve around it," Blowe said.

Sales has too many demands to allow it. Besides school and helping at home before and after class, he recently took on a job working at a local Little Caesars Pizza most evenings to earn extra money and gain work experience. His nights are consumed with homework.

Juggling it all isn't easy, Sales admits.

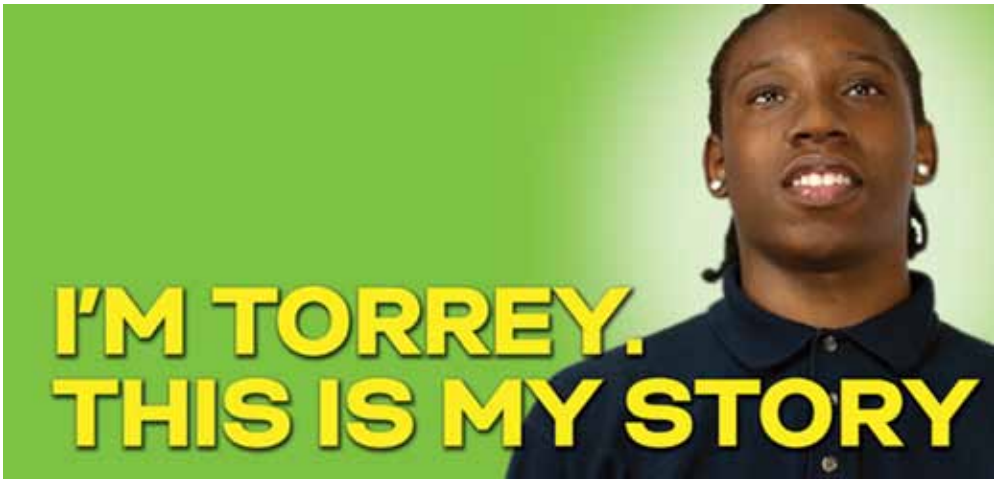
"Sometimes, I just make the sacrifice and go on two or three hours of sleep a night. That's it," he said. "When I come to school, I'm sometimes tired. But there's that thought in my mind that I need to stay motivated and that I have to go through all this to get to where I want to be. I just push through. Though it's a lot at the moment, I can take all I've been through and turn it into something great."

Even though he's not a Soldier, Sales is a big believer in the seven Army Values by which Soldiers lead their lives. He's particularly keen of the value of selfless service, which entails putting the needs of others before your own.

The ability to help others has and continues to be a significant part of Sales' routine, whether with his family, his fellow classmates and Cadets or the friends from whom he distanced himself years ago. He has even reached out to some of them in the time since, wanting to help them "stay on the right path with me."

"Most people I hang around now are those who want to do something

(Left) Retired Maj. Wilford Blowe, the senior Army instructor, recently presented awards to Sales and other members of Brainerd's JROTC program for their participation at last summer's Junior Leadership and Academic Bowl. *Photo by Steve Arel* **(Below) The billboard featuring Torrey Sales that was posted around Chattanooga as part a campaign by youth advocacy group On Point called "The Next Greatest Generation."**



in life," Sales said.

People like William Chalk, a fellow senior and JROTC Cadet who has been friends with Sales since they were in fifth grade. Chalk, one of the friends Sales still hung around after middle school, credits Sales with spurring much of his own success.

He remembers seeing a change in Sales as high school loomed, and he decided to follow suit. The two have pushed each other over the years, seeing who can score best on tests and other schoolwork. And when Chalk's grades slipped some during their junior year, Sales was there to help him study and make improvements.

"I used to be in the same predicament and was falling to the bad influence crowd," said Chalk, who's ranked fifth in the senior class. "But by staying by each other's side, we were able to stay on the positive side and away from the violence and any other bad influences we had. When I started to see him act a different way, I felt I needed to fix myself as well. If he wasn't around, I'd still be in the bad crowd."

Sales wants to be an engineer. He's always had a passion for tinkering with gadgets and trying to figure out how things work. When the disc drive on his Xbox 360 stopped working one time, Sales pried open the game system, figured out the problem and got it functioning again.

"I just like fixing problems," he said. "Somebody might say, 'What's wrong with this?' and I try to figure it out."

Sales hopes to pursue his profession in the Army, either through the Senior ROTC program at a university in Tennessee or through the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He'll be the first in his family to attend college.

Sales' success doesn't surprise those who have seen his development in recent years.

"He's one that you can see potential and capability," Blowe said. "It's a matter of him following through."

Those who know Torrey Sales describe him in the context of being a model. A model student. A model Cadet. A model friend. A model son.

Peer pressure makes the challenge of being a strong student even more challenging at Brainerd High School, many say. But some, like Sales, have managed to deflect the negativity and prevent bad influences from derailing their focus.

In fact, Sales' record of good grades and dedication in and out of the classroom are so well known among the student body that classmates who attempt to cultivate apathy no longer waste their time on him.

"It's known that Torrey Sales is going to make good grades," said Mark Hamby, a senior English teacher. "I wish more students could be like him. It's a testament to him that he didn't give into temptations."

Shortly after Agee became principal at Brainerd, he sent a letter to students and parents titled "On a quest to be the best." In it, he addresses some of the challenges impeding progress at the school but makes it clear that for the school's administration, "Students are our business."

From a personal standpoint, Sales has broadened the scope of that statement. Through an organization called On Point – incidentally, a familiar military term denoting focus – Sales has been able to tell other teens and adolescents about his struggles and how he manages to overcome adversity.

And how he made a tough decision when he was their age that brightened his outlook, and how they can, too.

Sales was one of only a handful of teens chosen to be part of On Point's billboard campaign titled "The Next Greatest Generation." Featuring a student's face and the words, "This is my story," the goal was to drive people to the organization's website to read about how those individuals are making good choices and setting examples for others.

"I never thought I would have a billboard in Chattanooga, where I was born," said Sales, who's still taken aback by seeing his smiling face towering over the city.

"People will always remember me for doing something good. That's what I always wanted to do. Maybe somebody will see that one day and say, 'I want to do that.' They'll get interested in opportunities and programs that are open to them, and they can change their life."

Majs. Marquette Montgomery and Roger Cabiness were 2000 Marshall Award winners and now serve in the same 3rd ID unit together in Afghanistan.

LEADERSHIP *for a* LIFETIME

Marshall seminar makes lasting mark on new officers

By Tim Oberle
U.S. Army Cadet Command

In a 1934 letter to one of his former students, Gen. George C. Marshall, then a senior instructor with the Illinois National Guard, described the internal conflict a young officer invariably faces and the best way to overcome such adversity. "An able officer of low rank has a hard battle to fight, particularly with himself," Marshall wrote. "Keep your wits about you and your eyes open. Keep on working hard. Sooner or later the opportunity will present itself, and then you must be prepared both tactically and temperamentally to profit by it."

Unbeknownst to Marshall at the time, his underlying message that hard work and eternal vigilance often translate into success for young opportunistic leaders eerily foreshadowed his posthumous role as a facilitator for the enlightenment of Cadets. Marshall's undying message to service men and women along with a plethora of other outstanding contributions in various defense-related roles during his career began his historical ascension as one of the preeminent examples of military leadership in the post-industrial global arena.

Marshall's excellence in leadership and unparalleled ability to master seemingly incongruent areas of expertise across the political and military landscape were just a few of the factors that led the U.S. Army to memorialize his accomplishments in 1978 by establishing an annual leadership symposium called the George C. Marshall Awards and Leadership Seminar. Held in historic Lexington, Va., on the contiguous campuses of the Virginia Military Institute (Marshall's alma mater) and Washington and Lee University, the event hosts the top Reserve Officers' Training Corps Cadets from each program throughout the country to discuss national security issues and provides them unparalleled access to some of the country's most influential political and military minds in a forum conducive to educational enrichment.

The hands-on interactive learning environment at the Cadets' disposal, combined with the unique networking opportunities some of the nation's paramount political and military figures present, have proven throughout the years to be an invaluable asset for leadership progression and a contributing factor for several past winners to assume high-level military or political positions later on in their careers.

"The Marshall Award is a commonality among good officers," said Capt. Christopher Wimsatt, a 2008 recipient. "It cannot network for you, but it can provide a starting point on which you can build relationships that will enhance your career. I find that the Army is filled with opportunities where discussion and self-improvement begin with something that two people have in common. It could be as minute as being stationed at the same place at the same time or as grand as sharing the honor to attend the Marshall Conference."

The Marshall seminar has featured a host of successful leaders over the years, from President George W. Bush, to Colin Powell, to Army chiefs of staff and secretaries of the Army.

In accordance with the level of excellence Marshall expounded throughout his military and political career, the seminar selects only the best Cadets from each of USACC's 273 ROTC battalions.

In fact, since the seminar's inception more than 36 years ago, only about 5 percent of USACC's senior ROTC students have earned the

distinction. The 2013 seminar scheduled to take place from April 14-17 will be even more exclusive, due to budget cuts that will allow only 170 Cadets to attend. For those selectees not in attendance, USACC's marketing department is working on other possibilities for remote participation, said Paul Kotakis, the division's deputy director.

"To me this is the premier award that a Cadet can receive while they are in the ROTC program," he said. "The benefits from being selected … are innately profound and are certain to have a positive impact on the Cadet's career as they progress through the ranks."

For Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, chief of staff for U.S. Pacific Command and a 1982 Marshall awardee, being selected a Marshall winner not only helped him on his path to become a general officer, but also inspired him on a personal level and introduced him to the type of issues he would face later in his career.

"I really didn't realize it at the time, but being selected for the Marshall Awards opened a lot of doors for me," he said. "At least five other Cadets that attended the seminar the same year that I did also went on to become general officers, so this event has a pretty good track record for selecting future military senior leaders. I'm sure there are a lot of reasons why each of us made it to this level of leadership, but having something like that on your record definitely doesn't hurt."

Although the career of Wimsatt, an operations officer for the 2nd Assault Battalion, 82nd Aviation Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, is still in its infancy, he too understands how special the opportunity to surround himself with some of the country's elite minds was and believes it was hard work and dedication that opened the door for him to attend the special event.

"Being selected as a Marshall Award winner was an honor and a pinnacle moment for me as a Cadet," he said. "It is something that I look back upon as my chain of command's recognition of the dedication and sacrifice I made on behalf of my ROTC battalion. It also provided me with confirmation that my methods of leadership and work ethic were effective and of value to the Army."

For many of the Cadets with the opportunity to attend the Marshall seminar, the chance to network with some of the country's highest ranking military officials and their ROTC peers was beneficial to them and helped them forge an understanding of some of the nation's most complicated national security issues military officials are certain to face later in their careers.

"I tried to forge as many friendships as possible throughout the event because any time you can network with the brightest minds in your field, good things will come back your way," Crutchfield said. "It ended up being really important because I ended up using those connections at a critical time in my career, and it definitely had an impact on my journey to become a general officer."

After the 2000 seminar, Roger Cabiness and Marquette Montgomery went their separate ways. The first time they saw each other again was with the 3rd ID on deployment, each holding the rank of major. Their experience demonstrates the irony of networking with fellow Cadets during the seminar because one truly never knows when or where one might encounter a fellow Marshall Award winner.

"These types of forums often develop long-standing relationships amongst peers," said Montgomery, a force protection deputy with Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 3rd ID. "Attending the seminar was a unique experience, and you never know when you will run into your fellow Cadets once you are a commissioned officer."

While at the seminar, the two were good friends, even featured together on a back page of the annual book that used to be put together after the conference.

"So when we found out we were in the same unit here in Afghanistan, it was really exciting because we hadn't seen each other since we left the seminar," said Cabiness, the division deputy public affairs officer currently deployed to Regional Command South in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

While networking and building relationships is one of the core concepts Cadet Command wants to instill in the Cadets, another intended learning experience at the seminar is the interaction with some of the country's greatest leaders and an understanding of Marshall's leadership style that helped him to succeed across multiple roles

MARSHALL, continued on page 20

Marshall Seminar at a glance

The annual George C. Marshall Awards and Leadership Seminar started in 1978. The event, held in Lexington, Va., honors the top Cadets from each of Cadet Command's 273 host programs around the country.

Over the seminar's 36-year span, only about 5 percent of the hundreds of thousands of Cadets who have been in the Army ROTC program have earned the Marshall honor.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Ordierno was among the military leadership who spoke to Cadets at the 2012 Marshall Seminar in Lexington, Va. *File photo*

SUMMER SCHOOL

First Lt. Tricia Carlino, a staff nurse at Fort Knox's Ireland Army Community Hospital and a former nurse Cadet, said the summer training program is valuable in that it helps set up nurses for success. *Photo by Vickey Mouzé*

Nurse Cadets get hands-on experience through special program

Two summers ago, 2nd Lt. Jennifer Parker was getting real-world lessons in caring for patients as part of the team in the fast-paced intensive care unit at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. She was one of four nurse Cadets at the time who experienced firsthand how to care for wounded warriors evacuated from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, Parker is putting what she learned to use as an Army nurse working on the medical-surgical ward at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Ga.

"I learned so much, especially getting hands-on experience with equipment or procedures that I had only read about in textbooks," she said.

Parker's experience came as part of the Nurse Summer Training Program, which annually helps nurse Cadets who want to get clinical experience at an Army medical treatment facility before commissioning.

The program has become so popular that all 250 slots for this summer are filled. U.S. Army Cadet Command's office of the chief nurse, the entity that oversees the program, has a waiting list of 12 nurse Cadets.

Story by Vickey Mouzé
U.S. Army Cadet Command

Col. Thomas Chapman, chief nurse for U.S. Army Cadet Command, said one reason for the program's popularity is nurse Cadets get to work with real patients. He said nursing students practice a lot on mannequins and SimMan robotic patient simulators while in school. Cadets gain more real life and hands-on experience during this time period than their civilian colleagues in their entire nursing education program.

"That experience on live patients is good, for in another two years, they could be in Afghanistan or some far-off place as newly commissioned Army nurses," Chapman said.

Interested nurse Cadets can apply for next summer through their respective brigade nurse counselor. Application packets are reviewed in areas such as grade point average, physical training test scores, height and weight to create an order of merit list. Approved requests are then matched with medical treatment facilities. Intensive care and emergency room are the two most popular requested nursing specialties.

Stephanie Savino, a Cadet with Carson-Newman College in Tennessee, checks the temperature of a Soldier at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany while participating in the Nurse Summer Training Program last year. *U.S. Army photo*

Open to nurse Cadets between their junior and senior years, the Nurse Summer Training Program provides leadership and clinical experience at facilities throughout the United States and Germany. The paid three-week program is voluntary.

Nurse Cadets can gain useful clinical knowledge and learn about the duties, roles, responsibilities and expectations of an Army Nurse Corps officer during 120 hours of clinical experience.

For example, nurse Cadets could work on the intensive care unit at an Army medical facility. Under an experienced Army nurse "preceptor," or mentor, nurse Cadets would exercise leadership skills in a hospital environment. They might work each week in a different role, such as a staff nurse the first week, a team leader the next week and a charge nurse the last week.

They would also provide an on-going assessment of a patient's condition and initiate appropriate nursing intervention, such as setting up an intravenous line or administering medication.

"They've had clinical hours while in nursing school," said Maj. Maria Pescatore, 1st Brigade's nurse counselor.

"But NSTP allows them to see Army medicine and how Army nurses are healthcare providers and dieticians and therapists and how an Army hospital works and functions."

Pescatore, an 11-year Army veteran who commissioned as an Army nurse through ROTC at Syracuse University, attended NSTP at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"The program was awesome because this was going to be my future," she said.

She said that while the program is voluntary, there is no shortage of nurse Cadets wanting to attend NSTP.

"They really get to see firsthand what they're going to do," Pescatore said. "They work with other Army nurses as well. Their preceptor lets them get in there and do things, more so than in college clinical rotations at local hospitals. I think they get excited about that as well; they're starting to feel like a real nurse."

While 1st Lt. Tricia Carlino, a staff nurse on the medical-surgical ward at Ireland Army Community Hospital at Fort Knox, Ky., and a former nurse Cadet, did not attend NSTP, she recommends nurse Cadets take part.

"I think NSTP is something that helps set up for success as a nurse, overall," said Carlino, who had friends who attended.

"When you come back from that, you have a little bit more understanding about the medical/surgical aspect that helps when you're going into your clinical phase. You know more about medications, etc. I think that the medical-surgical classes during my senior year were a bit more difficult for me than if I had attended NSTP."

The big takeaway for Parker, she said, was seeing the "high level of devotion and care" Army nurses provide to wounded warriors.

"That's something I won't forget — I use that when I'm taking care of my patients today," she said. "NSTP at Landstuhl was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

APPLYING FOR SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Army ROTC Cadets with an academic major of nursing are the only Cadets eligible to apply for Nurse Summer Training Program, a three-week program that assigns Cadets to Army medical facilities.

Nursing Cadets develop and practice leadership in a clinical environment under the supervision of an Army nurse preceptor. To qualify, Cadets must submit an application packet through their brigade nurse counselor to the Cadet Command chief nurse. (Note: NSTP slots are filled for this summer).

Learn more at www.goarmy.com/rotc/courses-and-colleges/programs/nursing.

Current NSTP clinical sites are:

Army Medical Centers (AMC)
Brooke AMC, Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Carl R. Darnall AMC, Fort Hood, Texas
Dwight D. Eisenhower AMC, Fort Gordon, Ga.
Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany
Madigan AMC, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.
Tripler AMC, Hawaii
William Beaumont AMC, Fort Bliss, Texas
Womack AMC, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Army Community Hospitals (ACH)
Bayne-Jones ACH, Fort Polk, La.
Blanchfield ACH, Fort Campbell, Ky.
Evans ACH, Fort Carson, Colo.
Winn ACH, Fort Stewart, Ga.

► *For a complete list of Army JROTC qualifiers, visit http://www.thecmp.org/3P/ArmyQualifiers.pdf.*

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Army national rifle event introduces additional site

Perhaps the greatest threat to a Junior ROTC program successfully competing at a national level isn't training, or even opponents.

It's money.

As Army programs prepare to take aim at national air rifle titles, Cadet Command and the Civilian Marksmanship Program, which conducts the events, is hoping to save money for programs in the Western part of the country.

Salt Lake City has been added as a new site for service-level meets that take place this month, complementing locations at Camp Perry, Ohio, and Anniston, Ala.

Shooters qualifying in Utah will do so on portable electronic target systems that virtually mirror those used in Ohio and Alabama, said Brad Donoho, program coordinator for the Civilian Marksmanship Program. He said the arrangement poses difficulties from a logistical standpoint, but it benefits programs that might not otherwise have the funding to travel great distances.

One drawback, though, is that there will be a gap between events, so the overall Army winners will not be immediately known. Competition in Ohio and Alabama takes place Feb. 14-16, while firing goes off Feb.17-19 in Utah.

Air Force competitions will take place on the same dates.

JROTC teams are slated to shoot at the location that is geographically closest to its brigade. Teams in the 3rd, 5th and 8th Brigades, for instance, will participate in Salt Lake City.

However, the Civilian Marksmanship Program has made some exceptions for schools to shoot elsewhere in situations that are financially more feasible. For example, teams in Tennessee, will travel to Alabama instead of Ohio, where most of 7th Brigade will compete.

Because air rifle participation is more common among Southeast programs, the bulk of the 300-plus shooters in this year's Army nationals will be at the Anniston facility, requiring a fourth heat instead of the usual three.

Even after the addition of a new range, it's possible further changes could take place next year, Donoho said. One possibility is conducting a national meet solely for the Army.

"We'll learn from what we've done right and what we've done wrong," Donoho said.

Road to the nationals

Feb. 14-16
Army and Air Force Service Championships (Camp Perry, Ohio, and Anniston, Ala.)

Feb. 17-19
Army and Air Force Service Championships (Salt Lake City)

Feb. 21-23
Navy and Marine Corps Service Championships (Anniston, Ala., and Salt Lake City)

March 21-22
JROTC National Championships (Anniston, Ala.)

BELMONTE, continued from page 7

boards to his dress uniform in front of a crowd of thousands.

"No matter what I was doing, I was there to show that there was a different side to the Army than most people realize, and I was doing that through my story, which was pretty awesome," Rockne Belmonte said.

Bob and Pamela Belmonte, who accompanied their son to some of the events, named their third son after Knute Rockne, of Notre Dame fame, because of the role model they think he was and because Bob is a Notre Dame alumnus who played golf for the school and is in its Hall of Fame.

"When he was born on St. Patrick's Day, I knew he had to have some component of Notre Dame heritage in his name," Bob Belmonte said.

Bob said he and his wife have always been involved and supportive for all three of their sons.

"(An) aspect that we were surprised at was how many football parents we met and spoke with about Rockne's accomplishments and how Army ROTC was such a big contributor to his growth and development as a person, football player and student," Bob Belmonte said. "Sharing his story became a repeatable theme with every new person we met."

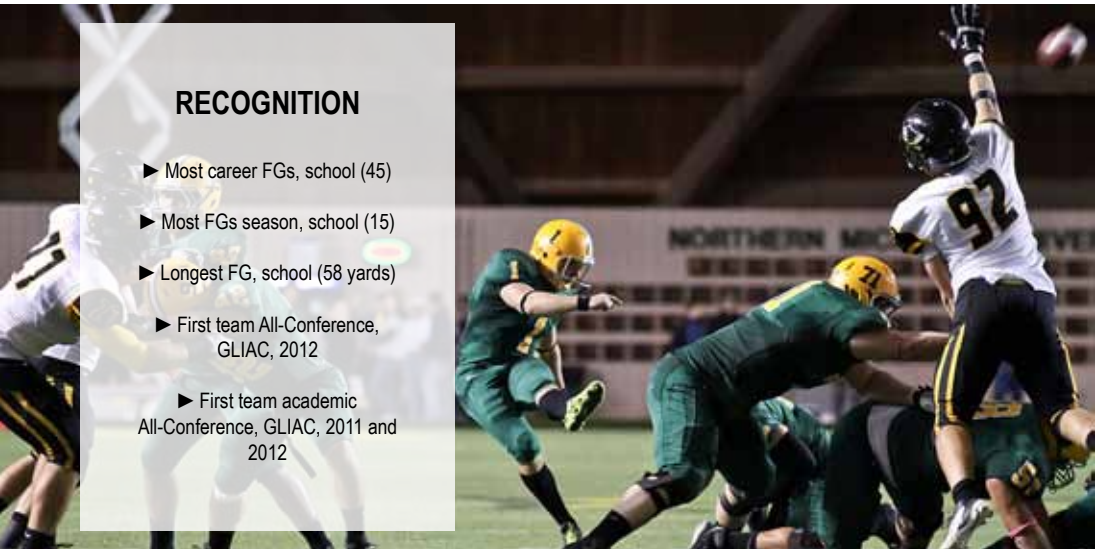
Rockne Belmonte did not start his college football career at NMU, playing first at Eastern Michigan for one season. He said he enrolled in ROTC while there because he needed to be part of a team after the season ended, and he said he always wanted to serve his country.

"I was attracted by being able to have the opportunity to be a leader in the U.S. Army," Belmonte said.

He was awarded a four-year scholarship to pursue a degree in physical education coaching — a major he said he chose because he didn't want to ever leave the "great game of football — it teaches you more about life than any classroom can."

His professor of military science at Northern Michigan, Lt. Col. Kyle Rambo, said athletes like Belmonte epitomize what he is looking for in a Cadet.

"NCAA athletes perform extremely well as Cadets because they come fully equipped with several attributes that are some of the hardest to teach," he said. "They are dedicated, extremely competitive, team-oriented and perform well under enormous pressure."



Rockne Belmonte, an Army ROTC Cadet and kicker for Northern Michigan University, kicks a field goal earlier this season. *Submitted photo*

And from participation in ROTC, Belmonte said he has learned much that will put him ahead of his peers.

"(One of the things) is the ability to lead from the front and think on my feet. In football there is always an expression …that is, being able to respond to adversity," he said. "There is no better training to be able to respond and overcome adversity than in the Army.

Initially, Belmonte's parents weren't necessarily in favor of their son pursuing a commission. They even offered him a Ford Mustang to change his mind.

Things change, and so did the Belmontes' view of their son's desire. They hold a different outlook now, saying that while ROTC might not be for everyone, they tell other parents that ROTC is a win-win opportunity in many ways.

Bob Belmonte said that while the financial benefits are good, the victory is more about the growth and development of their child, how it will enhance them as a person and how it will nurture their ability to perform and lead.

"Both football and ROTC provide the opportunity to (learn) that practice and preparation are critical to successful performance," Bob Belmonte said. "Both support the notion that team is first and more important than any individual aspect. With all this said, ROTC has been a key component of building Rockne's confidence in himself, his self-esteem and his beliefs that he can lead and help make a difference for the benefit of his team."

In addition, Rockne Belmonte said ROTC creates officers of character by demanding a Cadet's very best.

ROTC holds Cadets accountable for everything Cadets do or fail to do. Belmonte said this is important because people cannot be successful as leaders if they are a leader without character.

"Also, it has given me the abilities necessary to be a leader on the football team from a position of kicker — normally thought of as being weaker or lesser (in terms of leadership)," he said.

As much as he has progressed in ROTC, Belmonte has also progressed in football. One of his most memorable moments came this season when he helped Northern Michigan beat a heavily favored Grand Valley State by kicking a school-record 58-yard field goal. When his collegiate career wrapped up, Belmonte broke NMU's school record of 45 career field goals and set a single season record for most field goals in a season with 15. He was named first-team all-conference and second team All-American by Beyond Sports Network.

To continue his drive toward fulfilling his football dream, he spent part of January kicking on an arena football field and focusing on strength training so he can build leg speed and refine his technique. Belmonte then flew to Scottsdale, Ariz., for some additional practice with Arizona Cardinals kicker Jay Feely.

Without the support of his family, though, Belmonte said he wouldn't be where he is now. And without the support of the NMU football and ROTC staffs, he wouldn't have been able to pursue both his dreams.

Whether he plays professional football while being an Army Reservist or is a full-time active duty Soldier, Belmonte has much to teach those whom he leads.

"I am working hard toward both my goals," he said. "My dream shot would be to do both."

SMILEY, continued from page 8

er School. His muscles were exhausted, the oxygen was thin and the human body starts to eat itself above 8,000 feet because it can't metabolize food.

"I almost quit several times," Smiley said. "It took 13 hours of constant moving. And once you're at the summit, you're halfway there."

But he made it, and his accomplishment was noticed. In 2007, the Army Times newspaper named him its Soldier of the Year. In 2008, ESPN gave him an ESPY award as the world's Best Outdoor Athlete.

"You can't go into his office without bumping into some national-level award," Bingham said.

Smiley's first assignment out of rehab was as assistant G3 for initial military training for Accessions Command at Fort Monroe, Va. Later, he earned an MBA from Duke University, and served as an instructor for the core course in leadership at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

It was his first taste of teaching, and it was satisfying.

"It was just awesome to impart my experience with those students and see how fast they were able to grow," Smiley said.

Later, he served as company commander of the Warrior Transition Unit at West Point's Keller Army Medical Center, the first blind officer to lead a company.

When he got the chance to be an ROTC instructor in early 2012, Smiley jumped at the chance. He and his wife, Tiffany, asked to go to Gonzaga in Spokane, Wash., which is a couple of hours from their hometown of Pasco, Wash.

He now serves as the executive officer, and has taught two MS-IV classes — one on counseling, one on morals. A computer program called JAWS reads emails, websites and documents to him, allowing him to perform all the administrative tasks that go along with ensuring his unit is adequately equipped and trained.

Smiley is promotable to major now and is weighing his options, including joining the civilian workforce. Despite his glowing resume, he knows he will have to continue to prove himself.

"You can't let down your guard; you have to keep putting your best foot forward," he said.

Capt. Scotty Smiley, assistant professor of military science at Gonzaga University, speaks recently during an event on campus. *Photo by Rajah Bose/Gonzaga University*

MARSHALL, continued from page 15

throughout his career.

"One of the most important things that I learned while at the seminar was how critical networking and communication were in cultivating and developing my personal leadership style," Cabiness said. "As a young Cadet, you have not completely formulated the style of leadership that you will employ once you get out in the Army and take command of a unit, and the Marshall seminar really helps to provide insight into differing styles of leadership of the senior leaders in attendance."

Crutchfield has returned several times to the seminar as a guest speaker and roundtable discussion moderator so he could help Cadets become effective leaders. One of the biggest lessons he always tells them is to stay patient and work with what you are given.

"Grow where you are planted," Crutchfield said. "You don't need much to succeed, you just have to do the best job you can with what you have in front of you and opportunities will eventually open. You just have to be patient and work hard and don't complain even if you don't like the job that you are currently doing because in the end it usually comes back to be the best thing for you, and you just don't know it at the time."

In a speech to the Truman Committee in 1941, Marshall explained the difference between great and mediocre leaders, and much like Crutchfield, he didn't believe great leaders required a lot to succeed: "You give a good leader very little and he will succeed," Marshall said. "You give mediocrity a great deal and they will fail."

"I think this quote is very telling of Gen. Marshall as he took command of an Army that was the 17th largest fighting force in the world on the day Germany invaded Poland," Wimsatt said. "He transformed that force into the greatest Army the world has ever seen. While the magnitude of Marshall's accomplishments dwarf my everyday challenges, his wisdom remains true. Good leaders successfully manage and win with the Army they have, not one for which they wish."

In addition to mentoring Cadets on how to become effective leaders, the seminar sets out to develop great leaders along the same mold as Marshall himself.

"I try to emulate him in everything that I do," Crutchfield said. "That said, my favorite quality that I try to take from Marshall was his ability to remain humble despite all of his accomplishments. As a senior leader, it is imperative to remain humble because those under you take notice of the way you carry yourself."

While much can be gained from attending the seminar, those who have had the chance to take part in the event often enjoy the time they spend with their fellow Cadets the most and have fond memories that last a lifetime.

"Being a part of the George C. Marshall Awards and Seminar program is an experience that I carry proudly throughout my career and from time to time, I think back to those early times at VMI and Washington and Lee and experiences like the awards seminar help me regain focus and revalidate my azimuth as I continue my pursuit of excellence, just like the spirit of Gen. George C. Marshall," Cabiness said.

Cadet Spotlight

A quarterly look at some of ROTC's future leaders who are already making an impact on their campuses.

University of South Alabama Cadet Miranda Derflinger was the top nurse Cadet among 215 students nationwide for the 2012-13 school year.

Hometown: Stow, Ohio

Major: Nursing

GPA: 3.7

ROTC activities: Currently serving as the Jaguar Battalion Cadet sergeant major and is part of the program's Ranger Challenge team.

Other Activities: Running, student nurse association and working.

Branch: Army Nurse Corps

What motivates you to be an Army officer?
When I was at Basic Combat Training, I saw good leaders and bad leaders and had an overwhelming urge to make a difference. I decided to do ROTC shortly after so I could one day be in a position to develop those under my command into the kind of leaders the Army needs.

What are your future Army goals?
I plan on specializing in mental health and obtaining my doctorate of nursing practice in psychiatric nursing. I want to serve 20 years and after retiring open a mental health facility near an Army installation in order to continue to provide services to Soldiers.

What impact has ROTC had on you?
The University of South Alabama's Army ROTC program has taught me numerous things. For me, the most important lessons were to always lead from the front, never ask of your subordinates what you cannot do yourself and sometimes you need to go to bat for your Soldiers even if it means taking a hit yourself.

Photo by Margaret L. Anderson

LAST LOOK

East linebacker Dorian O'Daniel, of Olney, Md., pulls down West running back Thomas Tyner during January's U.S. Army All-American Bowl at the Alamodome in San Antonio. The East won the 13th annual game 15-8. *Photo by Steve Arel*