

C A D E T L I F E

The Camden Experience

At Camden Military Academy one often hears the term "the Camden experience." Those of us who use it, instinctively know what it means because we ourselves have had the experience of being at the Academy for some time. The primary question, however, is what does it mean to a new cadet? First, it means living away from family and friends, often for the first time. It means wearing a uniform instead of the "cool threads" he is used to. It means getting up and going to bed earlier than he really wants to. A new cadet must learn the military system and military drill. He must find a place for himself in his company and learn his role well. He must learn how to take orders without resentment and to give them respectfully. Through this process he gains self-confidence, self-control, self-respect, and the ability to see himself and others as cooperative members of a group working for a common purpose. He begins to appreciate their worthiness and his in the group's achievement of their goals. He begins to take pride in himself, in his uniform, his company, and his battalion. When the drums roll and the trumpets sound, his steps grow lighter. He learns to value the friends he has made at the Academy, friends he will have for life. He has learned lessons that many do not learn in a lifetime. He has become one of a select group of thousands of alumni who have gone on to great success because of their Camden experience.



The CMA Battalion conducts Saturday Morning Inspections approximately every two weeks. These are comprehensive inspections that include cadets' rooms, uniforms, and everything else in their possession. Room inspections occur daily. Assisted by PVT Michel Snelgrove, 2LT Craig Barker inspects Cadet Adam Totten's uniform.