



Cannon Detail:(back- left-right) CPL Roman Egbert, SGT Zachary Irtenkauf, CPL Hai Hoang, CPL Caleb Anderson (front left-right) Calvin Wu, MSG Ray Gradwell, SFC William Carpenter, PFC Mason Vande Garde

Ever since my first breakfast formation in 7th grade, I wanted to be the battalion commander. I can remember looking over while I was in formation and seeing LTC Elijah Kitts march up with his staff and take charge. I knew right away I wanted to do that job. I was in Alpha Company from the beginning and CSM Brooks molded me into the leader that I am today. He became a father figure to me and helped me achieve my dream at this academy. I've always been close to the past BC's: Nestor Ruiz was my roommate my sophomore year and Elijah Kitts used to hang out with me during free time. LTC Rice has also been my mentor. He was in my shoes at one time and has helped me follow in his footsteps. Being a 6-year cadet, football player and a Battalion Commander, it's people like these that have helped me become who I am today. Being a BC isn't as easy as it looks or sounds. I thought it would be very simple, until I found out that there is a lot more than meets the eye. You don't just tell companies to march to the mess hall every formation, nor give the corps serve and rest during meals. You have to be a class role model and set the example. You also have to be able to lead, and understand that not everyone is going to like you. There are a lot of things I do that not many of the captains agree with. But that's the way it goes. It is also tough to leave your company, your home for the past five years and live in Band and Staff. It was very hard for me to leave my friends and CSM Brooks. I am constantly busy with school, my duties and applying to colleges, especially during football season. But, there are some perks to it. All in all it's a commitment. You need to have self-discipline and integrity. Being Battalion Commander is an honor and a privilege. You get your picture up with the honor graduate and the company of the year in the mess hall for future cadets to look at and idolize. It looks good for colleges and teaches you how to multitask and utilize your abilities. I've also found out some things about myself that I had no idea I could do. It helps me to build character. Helps you become who you will be in life. Most of all... How to be able to lead and set an example.

-LTC John Puhl



Company Commanders:(left-right) CPT Ryan Callari, CPT Noah Williams, CPT Saurya Neupane, CPT Charles Jones, CPT Brian Guarino



Company First Sergeants: (left-right) 1SG Cody Auburger, 1SG Alexander Whitmore, 2LT Eric Stromme, 1SG Matthew Zimmerman, SFC Steven Domanico

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