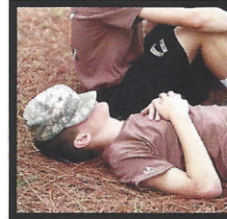
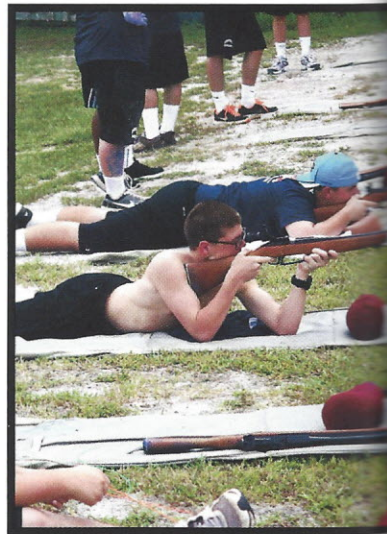


# Spartan Challenge

For the eighth year, on September 11, 2013, CMA cadets participated in the Spartan Challenge, an afternoon of activities testing cadets' teamwork, strength, speed and endurance. After a morning of classes, the Corps of Cadets was dismissed to their barracks, where a week of preparation for the day's events was finally coming to fruition. During the preceding week, cadets in each company designed and produced their own company flags and banners, as well as their company tee shirts. After a lunch outside their barracks, each company got outfitted, donning face paints, wigs, masks and, in some instances, elaborate costumes. The five companies rotated for the afternoon between eight different areas, where faculty and staff members had designed and set up challenges. The Corps visited the volleyball court, the soccer field, the football field, the tennis courts, the library, the swimming pool, the rifle range and the parade field. At each area, tasks awaited the companies. Each challenge sought to address different skills and strengths, and at each event cadets were given the opportunity to earn points toward a total to be tallied at the end of the day. At evening mess, The Corps was treated to a steak dinner. "The dinner was one of the best all year, probably due to the fact that we were all exhausted and starving after all the activities," said Cadet Hunter Cole. After dinner, the cadets convened in the White Field House. Here, Colonel Boland announced the winners, and Battalion Commander Puhl handed the winning plaques to Company Commanders Captain Ryan Callari and Captain Noah Williams. This year, the Spartan Challenge was won in a two-way tie. Alpha Company and Charlie Company finished with exactly the same number of points, and both were presented with first place. After awards, the companies returned to their respective barracks for a second supper, this one consisting of Papa John's Pizzas. With full stomachs and tired limbs, the cadets slept soundly. The Spartan Challenge is made up of fifteen different challenges designed by the faculty of CMA to test the strength, ingenuity, speed and teamwork of the cadets of each of the five companies. At each challenge, the companies are divided into three groups. For example, on the football field cadets must push a wheelbarrow, filled with bricks by their teammates to the other end of the field. Once the bricks are unloaded, cadets work together to build a tower as high as they can. The tower's height determines the company's score. Meanwhile, another group is in the weight room, encouraging each other to lift as much weight as they can relative to their own body weight. At the same time, on the football field, a third group is kicking a soccer ball while blindfolded. At a second area, at the Spartan Bucket Walk, cadets fill a bucket with sand and relay it in a timed event around the track from one teammate to the other. As this is going on, Frisbee golf is being played on the lacrosse field, and at the Glider Challenge, cadets make paper gliders to be flown for timed scoring. A third challenge area features The Caterpillar Challenge, the Volleyball Challenge and the Balance Beam Challenge. The Caterpillar Challenge involves using teamwork and strength to walk two parallel timbers through a course. In the Volleyball Challenge, teams try to keep the volley going as long as possible, and on the Balance Beam Challenge, cadets use teamwork to maneuver around each other on a railroad tie. Another challenge area entails The Circle of Death, The Tennis Challenge and the Rifle Challenge. The Circle of Death involves a team of cadets encircled in a rope, working together to navigate a course of obstacles such as the pool of oil. While this is happening, another group shoots targets on the firing range. A third group, on the tennis courts, attempts to catch tennis balls in plastic bags, served by blindfolded teammates, the fifth challenge area serves as a sort of cooling off phase of the Spartan Challenge. This entails Academic Jeopardy and the Swimming Pool Challenge. Academic Jeopardy allows the companies to sit in the air-conditioned Cline Library and use their minds (as a team) to play Mrs. Paula Bordner's version of the television game show, Jeopardy. At the swimming pool cadets are challenged to build a raft from limited

materials, exercising patience and teamwork. They must then use the raft to ferry their teammates across the pool. Each of the Spartan Challenges was designed by faculty and staff members, and each year, as they are fine-tuned, they grow more challenging.



1. Band Company is executing one of the most favorite events in the Spartan Challenge.

