

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY
ROTC CADET COMMAND**

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RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS**

**TRADITIONS OF THE U.S. ARMY
ROTC CADET COMMAND**



LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE STARTS HERE!

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**Reserve Officers' Training Corps
TRADITIONS OF THE
U.S ARMY ROTC CADET COMMAND**

**U.S ARMY ROTC CADET COMMAND--
A TRADITION OF LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE**

The United States Army ROTC Cadet Command was organized 15 April 1986 at historic Fort Monroe, Virginia, blending the vibrance of a new command with the traditions of the Army's oldest continuously active installation.

Cadet Command's roots are deeply embedded in America with its heritage of the citizen-soldier extending back to the nineteenth century when military training was introduced at what is today Norwich University in Vermont.

The lineage of Cadet Command's Reserve Officers' Training Corps dates to 1916 and the passage of the National Defense Act.

A new chapter began with the consolidation of all ROTC activities within Cadet Command, an organization forging its own identity and tradition.

This pamphlet supersedes Cdt Cmd Pam 145-7, 1 August 1988.

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CADET CREED

The Cadet Creed was adopted in June 1988 to imbue Army cadets with the values which are critical to being successful cadets and later Army officers. The Creed is displayed at Headquarters, Cadet Command and at all region and cadet battalion headquarters. The Creed is short but contains a profound message.

CADET CREED

I am an Army Cadet. Soon I will take an oath and become an Army officer committed to DEFENDING the values which make this Nation great. HONOR is my touchstone. I understand MISSION first and PEOPLE always.

I am the PAST--the spirit of those WARRIORS who made the final sacrifice.

I am the PRESENT--the scholar and apprentice soldier enhancing my skills in the science of war and art of leadership.

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But above all, I am the FUTURE--the future WARRIOR LEADER of the United States Army. May God give me the compassion and judgment to lead and the gallantry in battle to WIN.

I WILL do my DUTY.

EXPLANATION OF THE CADET CREED

The Cadet Creed, in a few carefully selected words, explains what is expected of an Army cadet. The Cadet Creed is a key element in the traditions of Cadet Command and is used to the maximum extent possible. There are two primary uses for the Creed: it is read to cadets prior to contracting and at other appropriate ceremonies, and the words are prominently and dramatically displayed at each region and cadet battalion headquarters.

A further explanation, when appropriate, accompanies the reading of the Cadet Creed. Points to be emphasized in the explanation follow:

"DEFENDING the values which make the Nation great." Cadets, upon being commissioned, take an oath to defend, with their lives when necessary, the Constitution of the United States of America. This document, created

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more than two centuries ago after our Nation's valiant struggle for independence, is the keystone of our way of life, the world's most wondrous democracy. Our Nation derives its strength from the consent of the governed. The basic tenets of our Constitution are that all people have certain natural inalienable rights, are born equal, and must be treated equal before the law. These are powerful words which have meaning only as long as we as Americans are willing to defend our value system as embodied in our Constitution. This, each Army cadet is honor bound to do, both as a cadet and later as a commissioned officer.

"HONOR is my touchstone." Honor is used in two ways when referring to Army ROTC cadets. Serving the people of the United States as a commissioned officer is an honor afforded only a small fraction of our young men and women. More importantly, "with honor" describes how an Army cadet will serve upon being commissioned. Honor is the bedrock upon which the Army officer builds a successful career. Honor encompasses integrity and dedication. Honor is the thread which holds together the fabric of our Army as it discharges its critical mission of being the strategic force which maintains the integrity of our Nation and peace in our world. Serving with honor begins in the cadet years and builds throughout a career.

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"MISSION first and PEOPLE always." The Army cadet who lives by these five words will always get the job done, which is the essence of being an Army officer. A commissioned officer has a sacred obligation to take care of the men and women entrusted to the unit--to guide, train, teach, and counsel. The leader who cares for people will always command the respect and dedicated service of those commanded, assuring mission accomplishment.

"I am the PAST." The legacy of the Army cadet dates to the colonial Army which won our independence. It has been enriched by each generation that served in time of peace--to safeguard our security, and in time of war--to secure victory through supreme sacrifice. The tradition of the Army cadet is to live up to the magnificent example set by their former comrades-in-arms, in our land and overseas, as the guardians of liberty.

"I am the PRESENT." Army cadets are competent Americans who are molded into superior leaders through a commitment to excellence by the officers and noncommissioned officers who make up Cadet Command. The skills of the Army cadet are enhanced in the classroom, at training exercises, at Advanced and Basic Camp, through Ranger Challenge, and the Cadet Professional Development Training (CPDT) program.

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The Army cadet dedicated to excellence will become an officer who is both a war winner and a respected leader.

"I am the FUTURE." Army cadets are indeed the Army's future officer leadership. Into the hands of Army cadets across the Nation will be placed the responsibility of leading the outstanding young Americans who fill the enlisted ranks of our Army. Our Army cadets will be challenged to maintain and strengthen our Army--to master the futuristic weapons systems being fielded. Being an officer-leader will be both a challenge and an opportunity. Each Army cadet must live up to his or her full potential to become a warrior leader with the "right stuff" to be a war winner.

"I WILL do my DUTY." Doing one's duty encompasses all the traits inherent in being an Army cadet and an Army officer. In the words of one of America's most respected Army commanders, General Robert E. Lee, "Duty is the most sublime word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less."

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The Cadet Creed can be a powerful training tool to imbue in our cadets those traits of professionalism and leadership which will serve them when they earn their commissions. Make full use of the Creed. It is another example of the traditions we are building within Cadet Command.

THE FOSTER FLAG

Cadet Command's colors are the crisp black and gold of America's senior military service, attesting to the command's mission: TO COMMISSION THE FUTURE OFFICER LEADERSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

Mrs. Maria Foster, wife of Calvin Foster, a former sergeant major with the U.S. Army Fourth Region, U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Command, hand-stitched the first colors of the command. The flag was presented to MG Robert E. Wagner, the first Commanding General of Cadet Command, by SGM Foster on 2 May 1986, at Continental Park, Fort Monroe, during ceremonies marking the organization of the new command.

From 2 May 1986 to 16 December 1987, the Foster Flag proudly flew at numerous Cadet Command ceremonies. It symbolizes the dedication of Cadet Command to promoting "Leadership Excellence" and Commissioning the Future Officer Leadership of the United States Army.

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The Foster Flag is now located in a permanent place of honor in the foyer of Cadet Command Headquarters at Fort Monroe.

PATCH AND CREST

Cadet Command's shoulder patch was authorized 28 April 1986. Its crest was authorized on 22 August 1986. The symbolism of both insignia is identical.

The shield symbolizes the Army's mission of national defense and is divided into quarters representing the four traditional military science courses comprising the senior ROTC curriculum. The sword signifies the courage, gallantry, and self-sacrifice intrinsic to the profession of arms. The lamp denotes the pursuit of knowledge, higher learning, and the partnership of Army ROTC with colleges and universities. The Greek helmet is symbolic of the ancient civilization concept of the warrior scholar. The motto "Leadership Excellence" expresses the ultimate responsibility of Army ROTC in the discharge of its duty to the Nation.

MACARTHUR AWARDS

The General Douglas MacArthur Awards have been presented since 1989. The criteria for competition is stringent and encompasses all aspects of battalion operations including summer camp performance, recruiting, retention, commissioning accomplishment and cadet rankings in the national accession process.

The awards are given jointly by the MacArthur Foundation of Norfolk, Virginia and the Commander, U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Command, to the best small, medium, and large battalions. In addition to the plaque presented to the battalion, a streamer is attached to the cadet battalion colors recognizing the unit's accomplishments.

ANNUAL CADET REVIEW

Cadets from universities, colleges, and high schools in the Hampton Roads area gather at Headquarters, Cadet Command for an annual review. The cadets symbolize their counterparts around the Nation and the world, training to be the future officer leaders of the Nation, and in the case of the high school cadets, learning the tenets of superior citizenship.

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Guest speakers at annual reviews have included Robert Novak, syndicated columnist (ROTC commissionee, University of Illinois) and Maurice (Footsie) Britt, Medal of Honor Winner and two-time lieutenant governor of Arkansas (ROTC commissionee, University of Arkansas).

CANNONADE

An integral part of Cadet Command's reviews and ceremonies is the firing of a three-volley cannonade saluting the pillars of service to our Nation--duty, honor, and country.

DUTY--obedience and disciplined performance. Despite difficulty or danger, duty requires self-responsibility and selfless devotion.

HONOR--encompassing integrity and dedication. Honor is the thread which holds together the fabric of our Army.

COUNTRY--for which men and women have given their lives. Our country shines as the light of freedom and dignity to the world.

FIRING BATTERIES

We encourage the use of 75mm pack howitzer batteries at our cannonades. Cadet Command's noncommissioned officers (NCO) fire the salutes. Long recognized as the backbone of the Army, the NCO corps has been selected for this honor in recognition of its vital role in training our cadets. Our NCOs encourage, nurture, and instill in our cadets the "right stuff" to be officer-leaders. At each commissioning, they share with the Battalion Commander/Professor of Military Science and Assistance Professors of Military Science, the pride of having molded another group of cadets into officers.

CADET PARKS

Cadet Park at Headquarters, Cadet Command, was dedicated 28 April 1987 as part of the first anniversary observance of the command. Cadet Park was dedicated in the year of the Bicentennial of the American Constitution, the document our cadets swear to defend and preserve upon being commissioned.

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On 17 September 1987, the following designation was given to Cadet Park at Headquarters, Cadet Command: "The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution has granted official recognition to Cadet Park and declared it to be of national significance with substantial educational and historic value."

But it is more than that. Cadet Park at Headquarters, Cadet Command--and those at each region--are also our symbolic link to the university community. Our parks commemorate the men and women who have earned Army commissions through Cadet Command and are serving their Nation proudly as officer-leaders. This commissioning process is made possible by the administration and faculties of colleges and universities throughout our country who have opened their campuses to Cadet Command and are our active partners in "Commissioning the Future Officer Leadership of the United States Army."

**ADVANCED CAMPS, RANGER CHALLENGE, AND CADET
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING (CPDT)**

Our Advanced Camp cadets carry with pride the colors of the Active Army regiment with which they are affiliated. This tradition gives each cadet a direct link to an Active Army unit which helped defend our Nation in time of war.

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Ranger Challenge, Cadet Command's "varsity sport," helps weld each cadet battalion to its college or university. Ranger Challenge participants compete with honor, both for their cadet battalions and their schools. Equally important, Ranger Challenge acts as a magnet to draw to our battalions those cadets who will be the Army's next generation of combat leaders and "war winners."

The CPDT Program consists of Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) and Cadet Practical Field Training (CPFT). CTLT allows cadets to enhance their leadership abilities by training with Active Army and Reserve units as platoon leaders. CPFT allows cadets the opportunity to compete with Active Army soldiers in badge producing school and special schools (e.g. Airborne and Air Assault).

DINING-INS AND MILITARY BALLS

The transformation from ROTC detachments to cadet battalions is more than a cosmetic change. Each battalion now has the opportunity to forge its own traditions. To solidify this unit cohesion, each battalion annually conducts a dining-in and military ball.

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TOASTS

Toasts are an integral part of all formal military functions. The number and wording will vary at each event but the following toast is used at all Cadet Command functions:

"I propose a toast to Cadet Command."

"To our cadets!

The toast attests to the fact that Cadet Command is "for and about cadets."

VISITORS

All distinguished visitors to Headquarters, Cadet Command and region headquarters are met at either the airport or in front of the headquarters building by a command sergeant major or sergeant major. After a tour of the grounds and Cadet Park, and an explanation of our facilities and ordnance, visitors are briefed by the senior enlisted members, again illustrating the key role played by the NCO corps in our training and commissioning program.

A TRADITION ENDS

Four ROTC regions were activated 1 July 1973: the First Region at Fort Bragg, NC; the Second Region at Fort Knox, KY; the Third Region at Fort Riley, KS; and the Fourth Region at Fort Lewis, WA.

This command structure was modified on 31 December 1992 with the deactivation of the Third Region as part of the Army's realignment procedure. The area of responsibility of the former Third Region was divided among the remaining three ROTC regions.

During its 20 years of existence, the Third Region was responsible for the commissioning of more than 28,000 officers.

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The proponent of this pamphlet is the U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Command. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) through channels to Commander, U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Command, ATTN: ATCC-MP, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-5000.

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