



The Bluegrass Bugle

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Completing the ChalleNGe!

With only two weeks left until graduation, we are settling into the homestretch. Over the past months we have developed and refined our skills of mastering routines, following instruction, and finishing required classwork. We have held class elections, completed road marches, and enjoyed fun trips. Nearing the finish line brings with it new challenges and hopes. We look forward to embracing life after graduation and continuing the progression, building on habits learned at the Bluegrass Challenge Academy.

“If it doesn’t challenge you, it won’t change you.”

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The Finish Line Approaches!

What is your favorite BCA Memory?

“Graduating High School!!” – Cadet Wheeler, Lakyn

“Getting into Honor Platoon”
– Cadet McIntosh, Lindsey

“Finishing 10th Grade” – Cadet Collinsworth, Andrew

“BCA Game Night/ chillin’ with Sgt. Z/movie night
with Miss Keri” – Cadet Hurst, Joann

“Blackhawk ride” – Cadet Wilkinson, Melody

Who is a Cadre or staff member who helped you the most and why?

“Sgt. Z and Sgt. Barton for pushing me to do my best”
– Cadet King, Khloe

“Sgt. Cook because he kept everyone’s spirits high”
- Cadet Jones, John

“Ms. Jenny ‘cause she always knew what to say and
was always helping” – Cadet Friedl, Alizabeth

“MSG Clark and PSG Jenkins because they tried their
hardest to keep me out of trouble.”
-Cadet Dandridge, Kenneth

What are your plans after graduation?

“Go to college” – Cadet Williams, Destiny

“Job Corps and then Military” – Cadet Jordon, Tyler

“Get a job” – Cadet Williams, Paris

Cadet Spotlight

I want to thank PSG Jenkins, Sgt Coleman, CSM Davis, MSG Clark, MSG Mellette, and MSG Mitchell. They have shown me that I can be a leader/role model, that I have the ability to win in life and have helped me learn the importance of discipline. My plan once I leave BCA to go back home is to finish school to get my diploma. Then I will look into colleges as well as military/career options. I’m also hoping to use my love of music to encourage people and be a positive influence for myself and whoever looks up to me. Shout out to all my family, my lady, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Benny, and Mr. Jacob for helping me change my life. My last thanks goes to Mr. Hampton for selecting me for Honor Platoon.



*Cadet Wilson, Christopher D.
Honor Platoon*



What Makes a Good Mentor?

A good mentor needs to be more than just a successful individual. A good mentor must have the disposition and desire to develop other people. It requires a willingness to reflect on and share one's own experiences, including one's failures. Great mentors must be able to both "talk the talk" and "walk the walk."

Qualities to look for in a mentor:

1. A desire to develop and help others.
2. The ability and *availability* to commit real time and energy to the mentoring relationship.
3. Current and relevant industry or organizational knowledge, expertise, and/or skills.
4. A willingness to share failures and personal experiences.
5. A growth mindset and learning attitude. The best teachers have always been and always will be those who remain curious learners themselves.
6. Skill in developing others.

The individuals I would like to recognize are as follows:



Major David Deitt

Currently a Major assigned to the US Army Reserve Readiness Center teaching operations, training, and leadership in the Company Leader Development Course.

"I have learned a lot over the years from mentors I have had and wanted a way to give back lessons I have learned."



Mr. Robert Getz
(Not Pictured)



SFC Gabriel DeSequeira

Currently serving the Provost for the 83rd U.S. Army Reserves Readiness Training Center, SFC DeSequeira "chose to become a mentor because I feel our youth need to have individuals who have experienced some hardship... I had older people in my life who were candid enough to help me get on the right track... I hope to pay it forward and hopefully make a difference."



SFC Shaneka Brown

"I am currently stationed at United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC). I work in the Surgeon's Office managing the medical readiness and the health of the USAREC Command. I chose to be a mentor because I love children and wanted to offer my help in any way I can. I hope the mentorship I provide makes a difference in the cadets' lives and would be valuable even after they leave the program."

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do. These individuals are the definition of what makes a Good/Great Mentor.

Mr. Eugene Grace
BCA Case Manager



BCA Welcomes New Deputy Director and Commandant

Mr. Roy Miller and CSM J. Mario Davis have assumed duties and responsibilities as Deputy Director and Commandant, respectively. We wish them both congratulations!

Mr. Roy Miller



Commandant's Corner

Class 45 has been filled with challenges and sacrifices that embody the spirit of a Bluegrass Challenge Academy cadet. Throughout their time here, cadets have strived for excellence in all their endeavors. Several of the cadets have distinguished themselves on several occasions in different core components, resulting in individual awards, graduation of high school, promotions, better physical fitness scores, leadership, and, some say most importantly, discipline.

Parents: I would like to say that the staff and cadre here have mentored your loved ones to look for all the opportunities which will allow them to excel in life. I believe the mere fact that your child accepted the challenge and passed the challenge has characterized their attitude and behavior to succeed in any of life's endeavors.

Cadets: The wait is finally over. I only say one thing: Please don't allow your smart-phone to make you a dumb person. You all found every answer without Google. LOL Just remember us ancient people love you, most important your parents love you and look forward to your return.

CSM Davis
Commandant
Bluegrass Challenge Academy



Message from the Director:

Just a few more days to go! As we near the finish line, I would like to ask guardians and family members to get ready to receive their graduates and have patience as they acclimate themselves to their new normal. We hope the 22 weeks they have spent with us has given them the opportunity to develop and prepare to be successful. Some will shine and some will struggle. Change is not always easy. Be strong and good things will happen.

Troy W. Hampton, Director
Bluegrass Challenge Academy



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