



CHCORI CHRONICLES

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“Dream as if you’ll live forever, live as if you’ll die today.”

-James Dean

Caroline High School Drill Competition

On March 27th the CHCORI drill team visited Caroline High School for their annual drill competition. On the way to the competition, they picked up the Spotsylvania Knights’ drill team who accompanied them on the bus ride.

They were some of the first schools to arrive, and CHCORI was quickly ushered into Inspection. The commander

for this event was c/CPT Ali Courtney. Throughout the rest of the day the team participated in many other events. Unarmed squad was commanded by c/LT Dalvina Brumfield. Armed squad was commanded by c/MSG Karan Sharma. Unarmed platoon was commanded by c/SGT Angela Amorosi. Armed platoon was commanded by c/1st SG Rey Rivera. The color guard was commanded by c/CPT Trey Neal.

The drill team placed third in inspection, but first in every other event. They also placed first overall out of the six schools that were there. Many of the team members also participated in Knockout, but 3 elite members placed in the top 10. Mayah Waller, Leksi Taylor, and Rey Rivera. The team was very happy with how they faired, and rode home victoriously with the Spotsylvania Knights.



CHCORI Raiders Defend Title

The Raiders met before 4:30 a.m. at the Spotsylvania Career and Technical Center, gathered their equipment, and set off to meet 32 teams from Virginia and North Carolina at Manchester High School. Will Jones summed up the CHCORI Raiders mind set. “We trained hard. We knew there’d be challenges, but we were determined to work together, no matter what.”

This was a return trip for the CHCORI Raiders. They earned first place at this competition last year, and wanted to defend their title. Many of the best units were there to challenge them for their title. The Raider Challenge began with a physical fitness test. Cadets did push-ups, sit-ups, and ran a mile. Teams then rotated through a series of challenges. Raiders had to pull a 7,000 lbs Humvee truck

for 60 yards, erected a one-rope bridge and cross an obstacle, treated a simulated casualty, and negotiated a 200 yard obstacle course to transport him to safety. The final event occurred after the Raiders were exhausted. They gathered their equipment and ran for 5 kilometers.

Several of the CHCORI Raiders distinguished themselves as individuals. Luke Van Zandt earned top male for push-ups. Shelby Van Zandt earned top female for sit-ups, and Will Ashby finished second for the mile run. All CHCORI Raiders competed well. The unit earned first place for physical fitness. A unit of all female CHCORI Raiders, the only all female unit competing, earned second place for physical training. Not only that, the female Raider Unit successfully completed all challenges.

The Raiders attacked the remaining challenges with confidence. At the end of the day, they learned they placed 5th for the Rope Bridge, 3d for First Aid, and 1st for the truck pull. As they prepared for the 5 kilometer run, the CHCORI Raiders received news that they were “In the hunt” for first place overall. Bridger Johnson had been part of the unit that had earned first place the year before. “It’s gut-check time,” he said.

The CHCORI Raiders ran well, but they knew that three other teams had run well, too. When the results were announced, the CHCORI Raiders earned second place for the 5 kilometer run. This result vaulted them to first place, overall. The CHCORI Raiders had defended their title!



CHCORI CHRONICLES

Best of the Best Raiders

Selected cadets from the CHCORI Battalion form the Raider Unit. Raiders are odd cadets. They relish tough, difficult physical challenges that require small-unit teamwork to be successful.

On Saturday, Mar 19, the CHCORI Raiders answered a summons to a special challenge, a gathering of champions. The top 20 teams from a seven-state area met to determine the best raider unit. Each raider team invited must have finished in the top three in their state qualifying competition. This Raider Challenge was appropriately titled the "Best of the Best."

"It is an honor to be part of this competition," said Cadet Captain Will Jones. "We've already gone against top-level competition because Virginia has a lot of good teams. But this is special. All these teams are great."



Raiders began their day with a Physical Fitness Test. They did push-ups, sit-ups, and ran a mile. Next they carried a simulated casualty on a stretcher over a 200 yard obstacle course. Then the raiders were timed in their ability to construct a one-rope bridge and cross an obstacle. A special event required the



raiders to pull a 14,000 pound armored Humvee up a slight grade for 50 yards. The final event was the 5 kilometer run with equipment.

According to Cadet Sergeant First Class David Weakley, "We had a great start for the PT test. The graders were strict on form for push-ups and sit-ups and nearly half of the run was uphill. But we did well. We were confident."

The CHCORI Raiders moved quickly with the stretcher and simulated casualty through the obstacle course to register a very quick time. The only mis-step of the day happened at the one-rope bridge site where the unit's time was much slower than usual. There was no head-hanging. The CHCORI Raiders put all their energy into the truck pull.

"Every muscle hurt when we were done," said Cadet Private First Class Lincoln Frawley.

No time to rest. The raiders quickly moved to the start of the 5 kilometer run. It was hot. They had already stretched themselves to their limit. Most teams got to start when the temperature was much cooler. The CHCORI Raiders

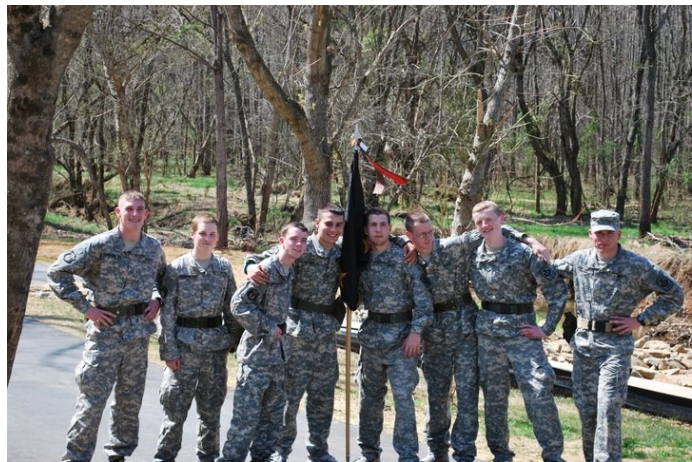
pushed as hard as they could. Every Raider was exhausted at the end.

This grand collection of high school students gathered on the field for the awards ceremony. All teams that had competed were awarded a special unit streamer for

their guideon that reads, "Best of the Best." Teams only took home trophies if they finished first. There were no individual awards given, but the CHCORI Raiders excelled. Will Ashby ran the fastest mile. Zach Wells finished first for sit-ups. Bridger Johnson finished 4th for pull-ups. As a unit, the CHCORI Raiders finished 4th for Physical Training, 2nd for the Stretcher Carry, and 2nd for the Truck Pull. Overall, they finished 7th.

"This competition requires so much out of you," remarked Bridger Johnson. "You have to push yourself to the limit and hold it there. You have to trust that every guy in your unit is going to do the same. When you've completed the last challenge, you're all exhausted, but you are proud. This is a special kind of satisfaction. You traveled a tough journey, but you did it as a unit. Where else can a high school kid learn this kind of stuff?"

Elias Mahon had his own take on the events. "We proved we belong among the best. We'll earn our way back here next year, too."





CHCORI CHRONICLES

CHCORI Formal Inspection (Honor Unit with Distinction)

On Wednesday, March 9 the CHCORI Battalion cadets underwent their first Formal Inspection. This occurs every three or four years. Colonel Charles Thornton and Mr. Steve Anderson from 4th Brigade HQ at Fort Bragg, NC joined with five sergeants from Recruiting Command to conduct the inspection.

The Formal Inspection is an all day event. Every aspect of JROTC is evaluated. One hundred fifty-four cadets from all three high schools formed in the Courtland gym for the in-ranks inspection. Every cadet's uniform and knowledge was inspected.

"I worked hard to make sure my uniform was ready. I studied for the inspection, but I had other school work and papers to do, too. I was nervous. I was right next to Will Ashby, our Company Commander and the inspector asked him a lot of questions. Then he got to me and asked a question. I thought, 'I know this. I got this!'" Cadet Staff Sergeant Joe Young.

After the in-ranks inspection, selected cadets demonstrated their proficiency with a Color Guard routine. The Color Guard is a four-person unit that carries the National Colors, unit colors, and has armed guards. Their routine was flawless. Cadet First Lieutenant Trey Neal was a last minute substitute to the Color Guard and commanded the routine. Mr. Anderson remarked, "We almost never do this, but the

Color Guard earned a perfect score."

Then Cadet Sergeant Angela Amorosi commanded a platoon of 13 cadets. Their effort would be the score for the entire cadet battalion in these categories. "We worked hard, but as we started I was thinking that I wished we practiced more. Then we did great! I was so proud of the drill cadets and happy for all of us," said Angela. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the drill routine was that every member of the drill unit was a freshman or sophomore. When they'd finished, the cadets in the stands that watched the routine roared their approval.

The cadet Battalion Commander, Luke Van Zandt and his staff provided the inspectors an overview of the CHCORI Battalion JROTC program. Ten cadets briefed their duties, responsibilities, and status of their functional areas. At the conclusion of the brief, COL Thornton said, "That's the best cadet brief I've seen in 18 years."

Each staff section was inspected. Inspectors reviewed the personnel and administration status and the cadets knowledge of the JROTC Unit Management System (JUMS) automated network. Safety and Security of equipment, Training and Operations Management, Supply and Services, Public Relations, and Computers and Electronics were evaluated. For each evaluation, the inspectors reviewed records,

required cadets to demonstrate their skills for their functional areas, and tested their knowledge. Mr. Anderson was so impressed with cadet Sergeant Major Kevin Madden and the supply room; he asked to take a copy of the supply procedures back to Fort Bragg. Every staff section received maximum scores.

Selected cadets from each grade assembled to answer questions about the JROTC curriculum. These cadets could be asked any question about subjects taught in JROTC. Subjects include citizenship, government, leadership, communication, first aid, health, geography, financial planning, military customs and courtesies. The cadets answered all questions correctly.

When the inspectors were done, the cadets received great news. They had achieved the highest possible rating for a JROTC unit. The CHCORI cadets are an Honor Unit With Distinction. During his out-brief to Principal Lee Browning, Mr. Anderson told him, "In our seven state area, this JROTC unit is in the top two percent."

As Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Luke Van Zandt addressed the cadets at the end of the day he told them, "You did it. It took a lot of work. It took everybody. Because of what you did, we are an Honor Unit with Distinction."

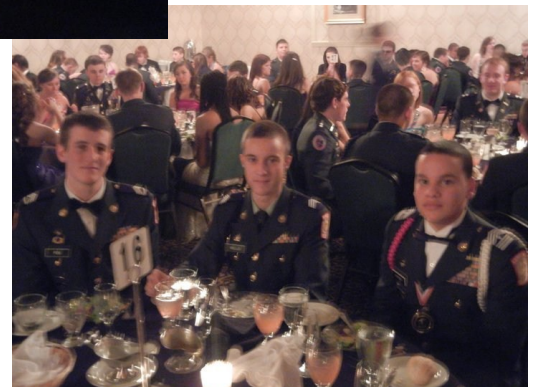
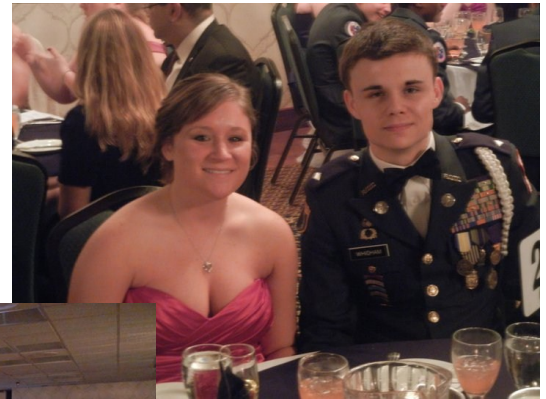




CHCORI CHRONICLES

Military Ball

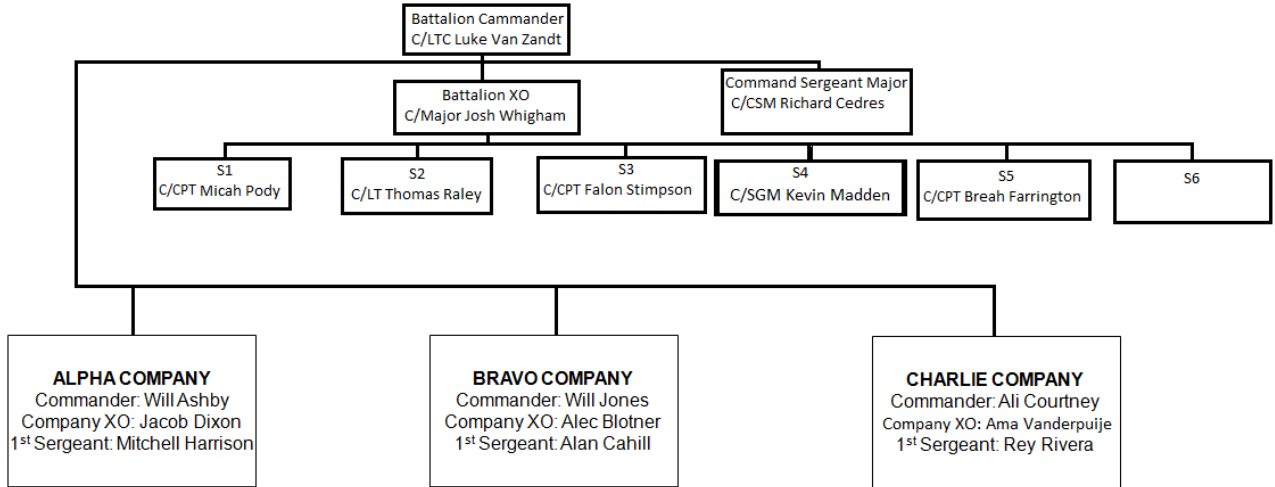
CHCORI and Knight Battalion cadets attended the Military Ball on February 25th. The events that took place were the receiving line, the presentation of the colors, the National Anthem, the Spotsylvania County fallen soldiers and MIA/POW (Missing in action/prisoner of war) Ceremony, the Battalion toast, Invocation, dinner, Brigadier General Leodis T. Jennings as the guest speaker, a special presentation, retiring of the colors and the crowning of the King and Queen. The CHCORI Battalion provided a Color Guard and an Honor Guard. After the ceremony and dinner the cadets danced the night away. It may have been really hot and humid, but that didn't stop anyone from dancing. There were over 300 cadets were at the Military Ball, and that was an amazing turn out. The CHCORI King of the ball was Alec Blotner and the CHCORI Queen was Kaitlin Vose.





CHCORI CHRONICLES

Cadet Chain of Command



Upcoming Events

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| May 22 | Change of Command Leaders' Practice | Courtland High School |
| May 23 | Change of Command Rehearsal | Courtland High School |
| May 24 | Change of Command | Courtland High School |
| May 30 | 'Taking Chance' Movie Showing | Riverbend High School |
| June 3 | Chancellor Graduation | Chancellor High School |
| June 4 | Riverbend Graduation | Riverbend High School |
| June 4 | Courtland Graduation | Courtland High School |
| June 13-17 | JCLC Prep. | SCTC and Motts Run |
| June 19-25 | JCLC | Fort Pickett |

