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The Challenge

CYCLE 44 ISSUE 1

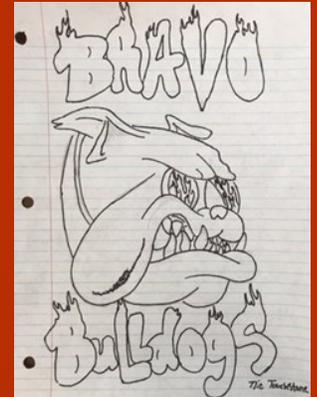
EDITION 126

Bravo Barracks Inspection

At approximately 8:00 o'clock this morning, nerves were high in Bravo platoon. In just 1 hour and 45 minutes we had our weekly inspection. Even though we were nervous, Bravo knew we had this week's inspection in the bag.

At 9:45 Bravo's cadre (Sargent Cook) called up to operations for Master Sargent Draughn. Minutes later, Master Sargent Draughn arrived and the inspection commenced. When I asked a few fellow cadets if they were nervous as Master Sargent Draughn made his way down down the barracks, these are the responses I received: Cadet Hardin said, "After he inspects your area and he tells you it looks good, you feel proud." Cadet Roberts said, "I wasn't nervous as he walked through the barracks; I knew Bravo had everything together."

After the barracks inspection was finished, Bravo platoon was called to attention and ordered to fall outside for drill inspection. Called to double time, the cadets quickly fell into formation, waiting for their platoon leader to start drill. In only a matter of minutes, Bravo platoon had finished their drill inspection with minor mistakes. After drill/barracks inspection were completed Master Sargent Draughn left Bravo platoon with this very inspirational sentence, "These barracks are the best barracks I've seen in two days. Keep up the good work," which made the entire Bravo platoon sound off with a big, "HOOAH!!!" - **written by Bravo Platoon Cadet: Brennan Ducote**

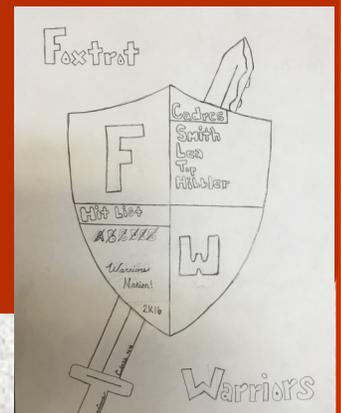
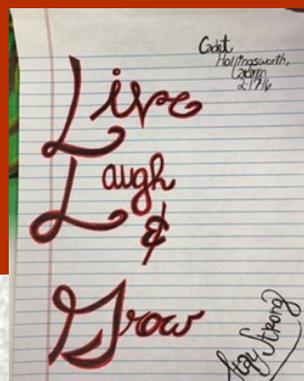
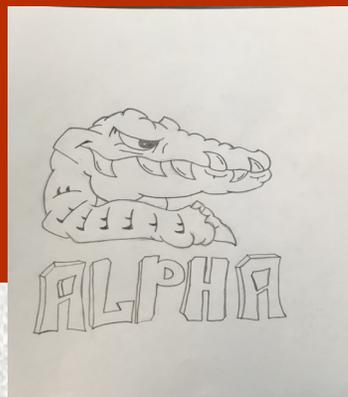


By. Nicolas Touchtone

Artwork by Cadet Michael Voyles Alpha Platoon

Artwork by Cadet Lauren Hollingsworth, Golf Platoon

Artwork by Cadet Malik Kidd Foxtrot Platoon



The First Two Weeks of Youth Challenge Program In Golf Platoon

It was hard to get used to the first two weeks because we had to wake up at 5:45 in the morning, clean up our area, and make our bed while we were half asleep. We would have to be done with our hygiene, our area, and get out the barracks by 6:30. Then at 7 we marched to the chow hall. We have to make sure we did not talk or look around because we would get told something over and over again until it finally stuck to our brains. When we would first arrive at chow we would pray, then there will be a certain order we had to go in like 1, 2, 3, 4 or something like that. We had to wait to eat until everyone was at the table then the cadre told us when we could take our seats. At night we would take showers; the showers are open. So the first two weeks we were all pretty uncomfortable. After a while we finally got used to it, as much as we could anyway.

There were a few days that we had to go to class to test so the teachers could see where we were at academically. We took the Tab test to see what grade we were on, then we took the pre-GED to see if we could test early or not. They told us, "Don't freak out if you don't test early, not everybody will, but everyone will have a chance to take the GED three times." The teachers are really great here if we just stay awake, don't lay our heads down, and pay attention; then we are fine.

Then we have our cadre, which are the adults that are with us at all times. They can be fun and chill but only if we respect them and do as we are told. We learned our code of conduct (which are the rules), and the eight core components (which are the things you need to complete to graduate), and learned to prepare for inspection.

We were taught the right ways to fold all of our clothes, how to set up our drawers, and how to hang everything on our shelves. Once we got everything down pat, it became easy. **Cadet Christa Johnson, Golf Platoon**

Give a Burden to God

A look in the eyes could mean a billion things,
with a million things in mind,
when you're heavy hearted, and hanging low.

Look in the sky and imagine a bow.
A bow means peace, happiness, and calm.
So look down and put your palms together
and fall to your knees.

He's the way and He is life.

**Written by Cadet Kacie Spiers, Golf
Platoon**

The First Two Weeks in Alpha

The first two weeks were different to say the least. They broke us down and built us back up, and in the process made us better. We didn't have to be the smartest or the strongest to pick up on what they were teaching us. The only thing we had to be was be obedient, which made it a good learning experience

I personally had a hard time with PT at first. The reason was that they don't push you to your limits, they push you past your limits. The easiest part to pick up on was the marching. The only thing required of you in marching is to follow their directions. At first I thought the defac's food was going to be terrible, but it turned out to be very good. In the end the first two weeks, were hard but they put us on the path to be a better person. **Cadet Dakota Lee, Alpha Platoon**

Who are the Golf Girls?

We are the young ladies at Camp Shelby. We are here to show the world, we can make it. We can do this, just like the young men here. We are working to get our education and get every core component!

Week : 6

Star Students:

Alpha: Devon Burnham

Bravo: Michael Matthews

Charlie: LaQuniton Harp

Delta: Duty Platoon

Echo: Tyler Cofield

Foxtrot: Dillon Keyes

Golf: Janesha Edget

Over All Vocabulary

winner:

Halee Saul



1st

Week : 6

Vocabulary Bee Winners:

Alpha: Dakota Lee

Bravo: Joseph Hardin, Ryan Roberts

Charlie: Adnan Awad, Christian McGrew

Delta: Duty Platoon

Echo: Brandon Cooley, Kenneth Lewis

Foxtrot: Malik Kidd, Dylan Vereen



Quote of the
Week:

“When you want to succeed
as bad as you want to
breathe, then you'll be
successful.”

— Eric Thomas

Interview with Colonel Hosey by Amber Speed, Golf Platoon Reporter:

Q (Cadet Speed): What cycle did YCA form a female platoon?

A (Col. Hosey): They formed a female platoon along with the male platoons in 1994, cycle one.

Q: How did Golf get there name?

A: We became the Golf Girls, then about three cycles ago someone came up with the Golf Grenades. Finally, we became the Golf Girls again.

Q: What was Golf originally named?

A: We started out as Goofy Golf.

Q: What do you think, in your opinion, Golf represents?

A: I think you all are here to show the world, as young ladies, that we can do the same things as young men and even better at times. There are some differences like strength, but even then, not always. We stand for opportunities.

Q: Do you ever feel like it's more difficult having a female platoon?

A: No, the girls may even be doing a little better.

Q: How do you feel about your job? Why?

A: I love it, and to work here as long as I have, you have to love it. It's fun sometimes, as well, as tough. I love seeing the cadets use the opportunities provided and watching the young men and women better themselves. It's a great experience to see how much these cadets change and how much stronger they become. It's wonderful when their parents notice the change in these young people.

Q: Why do you think we are here?

A: You are here to get prepared for the real world, and so you can continue with your lives. You are here to achieve the things you never thought you could achieve. Maybe, no one else thought you could achieve these new found goals. Prove them wrong!! That's why you are here.

Letter To Future Cadets

Well to start off this letter, I'm going to tell the future cadets about my experience of the first two weeks at YCA. The first two weeks aren't really what you're going to expect, but it is also a real challenge to see if you got what it takes to stay through this program. The first two weeks were the most stressful, being away from home, not having any connections with friends or family, and also without your electronics for five and a half months. It really is a big challenge but if you put your mind to it, then you can make it, I promise. Also, the first two weeks the cadre are there to break you down then build you back up. When you get to the third week, it will get easier. I mean, it is still a challenge but it's much easier because you're more experienced than the first two weeks. I believe anyone could make it through this program if you put your head to it and give it all you got. Also, future cadets, you have got to study, study, study, if you really would like to pass your GED. With that being said, let's see who is really down for the challenge. **Written by Samantha Smith, Golf Platoon**