Participating in the Cadet Troop Leadership Training, (CTLT) has been the most rewarding experience I have had in my training to become an officer in the United States Army. I had the privilege to work with the 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division in the 1-77th Armored Regiment, at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas. The Battalion Signal Officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Captain Crim, was my sponsor during my time at CTLT. Captain Crim allowed me to interact with officers from the different staff positions and branches.

This afforded me the opportunity to observe a variety of different job options. I learned how the Army works and received professional advice on how to be a successful officer. Captain Crim helped me a great deal in preparation for the Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC), which follows CTLT. We conducted physical training every day and one ruck march per week, I even took the PT test. Also, CPT Crim had me work on OPORD’s, Land Navigation, and Range Cards to enforce my prior knowledge and become more confident in each of those areas. Not only did CTLT expand my knowledge about my future in the United States Military, but it also provided me a good idea of what it’s going to be like working my new job, as a Second Lieutenant.

I talked to officers from the following branches: Chemical Corps, Air Defense Artillery, Medical Service Corps, Engineer Corps, and of course CPT Crim’s branch, Signal Corps. Listening to those officers provided different perspectives. Those officers helped me learn and understand their purpose in the Army. I was able to compare them and decide which ones suited me best.

My first choice has always been Medical Service Corps since my goal is to enter the Army’s Physicians Assistant program.
Army and Boston University Partner for Cultural and Language Program by Cadet Maggie Troxell

Sannu, ina nan Jami’ar Boston da bazara don in koyi Hausa. Hausa wani harshe na Afrika ta yamma ne. Recognize it? This is the language of Hausa, one of six critical languages taught at Boston University in the summer. In fact, BU is one of only 22 schools nationwide to be participating in Project GO. Five of these schools are senior military colleges.

Project GO, according to its website, is a Department of Defense initiative aimed at improving the language skills, regional expertise, and intercultural communication skills of future military officers (www.rotcprojectgo.org). Project GO is still a fairly new program. It was introduced four years ago in two universities where it had a trial period. After some tweaking and perfected the program was expanded. Project GO awards scholarships to ROTC cadets from all branches across the nation.

There are two types of scholarships that are awarded. The first is a study abroad scholarship where the cadet goes to a country to be completely immersed in the critical language and culture of study. The second type is the domestic summer scholarship which is what I was awarded.

Over Christmas break, I was thinking about what I would do this summer. As an MSII, I wanted to get some kind of training so that I could get some points for the OML. After extensive research, I had narrowed my options, one of which was Project GO. I then proceeded to choose a language. That was one of the most difficult tasks because there were 19. Eventually, I chose Hausa at BU and began the application process.

Fortunately, it was fairly simple. I had to answer a series of questions, hand in my transcript, and get a letter of recommendation from a cadre member and a language teacher. About a month later I got the news that I was accepted, and I could not have been more excited.

On May 25th, I arrived in Boston ready to get started. Luckily, there are only three students in my class which is a good number for a beginning language class. Both of my classmates are also in ROTC and are both also taking the class as part of Project GO. One of them is in Navy ROTC, so I got to ask him a few questions about how Navy ROTC is different from Army ROTC, etc. The other one is a female in Army ROTC and is also a soon-to-be MSIII. Throughout my time here, we have been able to talk to each other about LDAC, and we got to share the stories we’ve heard from MSIVs. This summer is turning out to be an even more valuable learning experience than I imagined.

Other than the opportunity to meeting people from different schools, Project GO provides scholarships for all branches of ROTC. Another great thing is it is one of the few programs that gives you a summer opportunity as an MSI. In fact, even non-contracted cadets can Apply to Project GO. It is a great source for learning a language that will help you not only in your military career but in various other careers down the line. It also helps with college credit; the classes count as language requirements or just as regular credits for your school. On top of that, learning the language could also qualify you for critical language incentive pay. It goes without saying that Project GO is a phenomenal program that allows any cadet to have an absolutely unique experience.
Cadet Command Unveils New Mission Statement

The Commanding General of US Army Cadet Command, Major General Mark McDonald, announced in June that the Command would adopt the following Mission Statement:

*The US Army Cadet Command commissions Officers to meet the Army’s leadership requirements; and provides a citizenship program that motivates young people to be strong leaders and better citizens.*

2nd ROTC Brigade Change of Command slated for 14 July 2011.

On Thursday, 14 July, at Fort Dix, New Jersey, Colonel Glenn Goldman the current commander of 2nd ROTC Brigade, will relinquish command to Colonel Twala Mathis. Colonel Goldman will be departing for a new assignment at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Colonel Mathis comes to the Freedom Brigade following her attendance of the National War College at Fort McNair, Virginia.

Looking for a good book ???
Check out Battalion XO Captain Erin Leach’s recommended professional reading list.

*A Thousand Splendid Suns*  
by Khaled Hosseini

*The Things They Carried*  
by Tim O’Brien

*Stones into Schools*  
by Greg Mortensen

*Half the Sky*  
by Nicholas D. Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn

*I am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* by Nujood Ali