The transition from Cadet to Second Lieutenant might not be as easy as you think it will be. After commissioning, as I was making travel and lodging arrangements for Military Intelligence Basic Officer Leader Course (MIBOLC), I constantly found myself answering the phone with “yes, this is cad-- Lieutenant Troxell.” Fortunately, it only took me a few days to get rid of that habit. Little did I know, calling myself “cadet” was the least of my worries.

Once you are a commissioned officer, along with your oath of office, you are served a big dose of responsibility. Gone are the days of cadre getting on your back about turning in 104-Rs or making sure you have everything on the packing list. You are responsible for everything in your career from the time you pin on that shiny gold bar. Yes, you can still ask the cadre about how to update your Officer Record Brief, or how to make sure you are green in MEDPROS, or how to fill out a travel voucher. But, for the most part, if you don’t know the right questions to ask, you suffer the consequences.

That is why, my biggest piece of advice that I can give is to find yourself a mentor. A mentor can be anyone from an officer in your branch, a Noncommissioned Officer at your next duty station, or even another lieutenant. Before I left King’s, both Lieutenant Colonel Remley and Captain Hyman had put me in contact with mentors. I have asked them about everything from what are the different jobs available in the S2 shop to where the best barbecue is around Fort Bragg, North Carolina. If you can find a good mentor who you truly respect to give you some tricks of the trade, you will be that much further ahead of your classmates.

When I first arrived at MIBOLC in June, the company First Sergeant came in to welcome our class and he said that the hardest thing we will have to do at the Basic Officer Leader Course is lead our peers. Even though we might not have realized it right then, by week four (or eight, if you’re lucky) when everyone was fighting the urge to tell someone just to sit down and listen, it became very clear.

There are 40 of us in our class (and three international officers), we all come from different backgrounds and we all have different futures. We have our Federal Officer Candidate School graduates (with and without prior service), our State OCS grads, our ROTC grads and then we have those going to Infantry Battalions, MI BNs, Combat Aviation Brigades or back to their home Army Reserve or National Guard units. When you put all of those people into one room for 16 weeks doing sometimes mundane tasks, your interpersonal tact will be tested. This is where the true test of leadership comes in. If you can lead those who are under no obligation to follow you, you can count yourself pretty successful.

Although I know that this phrase is cliché, really try to have fun with it. Whatever branch you get, whether it is your first choice or last choice, accept your fate and make the most of it. Time in Training and Doctrine Command is not the most exhilarating but, every experience is exactly what you make of it. No one respects the person with the bad attitude. There are always great opportunities to take advantage of if you look in the right place.
Twenty-Five Royal Warriors Take Part in 29th Annual Army Ten Miler

As the sun broke over Washington, D.C., on Sunday, 20 October 2023, 20 Cadets and 5 Cadre from the Royal Warrior Battalion laced up their running shoes and joined nearly 36,000 runners, including some 85 Wounded Warriors from Walter Reed Medical Center, for the 29th Annual Army Ten Miler sponsored by the Association of the United States Army. The event draws military members from each of the five services, as well as members of the Army National Guard, Army Reserves, Cadets from ROTC and the United States Military Academy and civilians. The ten-mile race route begins and ends at the Pentagon and takes runners through the streets of the Nation’s capital and past many of the city’s monuments and memorials.

This marks the third consecutive year the Royal Warrior Battalion has sent members of the unit to take part in the event. The team departed early Friday morning for Washington, D.C., but made a stop at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where Charlie Company, 12th Aviation Brigade, hosted members of the Royal Warrior Battalion for a Leader Professional Development event.

Following a briefing on the unit’s missions, tour of the aircraft and lunch with the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers of Charlie Company, 12th Aviation Battalion, Cadets and Cadre boarded two UH-60 Blackhaws for a flight around northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. The flight path took the team over the Pentagon, Jefferson Memorial and other points around the city.

Saturday morning the team set out to the Washington, D.C., Armory where they picked-up their race packets and race numbers. The remainder of the day was spent visiting the sites in and around the city. Later that evening the team came together for dinner at Legal Seafood. Friend of the Royal Warrior Battalion Colonel Mark Rado, a Wilkes University graduate, stopped by the restaurant to wish the team well and offer words of encouragement. After dinner it was an early lights out as they prepared for the race early the Sunday morning.

This year the team was led by Military Science Level III Cadet Kelly Tracy who served as the team captain and helped organize everything from the team’s training plan to the design of the team shirt. The train-up commenced right after the Labor Day holiday break, as members broke away from the normal routine of Tuesday and Thursday physical training sessions. The members of the team logged their miles as they executed long distance runs around Lake Scranton, Lackawanna State Park and throughout downtown Scranton.

MS III Cadet Jesse Hodges of Baptist Bible College scored the team’s best time, covering the ten mile course in 1 hour and 12 minutes.
Happenings Across Cadet Command

U.S. Army Cadet Command's Basic Officer Leader Development (BOLD) Transformation

Over the course of the next several years some significant changes are slated to occur across U.S. Army Cadet Command as part of a new strategic vision for the command. The Basic Officer Leader Development (BOLD) Transformation concept is U.S. Army Cadet Command's way of revitalizing the senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program to recruit, develop, retain and commission officers and leaders of character necessary to meet the demands of the Army. BOLD Transformation includes developing a more rigorous on-campus curriculum, centralizing Cadet basic military training from on-campus to Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET) Course, re-locating the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) from Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Washington, to Fort Knox, Kentucky, and re-purposing it to a 7-week Cadet Leader Course (CLC).

Additionally, BOLD Transformation will include changes in the command's college and university footprint across the country. Moreover, the Army has also supported Cadet Command's "re-greening" initiative by eliminating contractors, increasing active duty component authorizations, centrally selecting our Professors of Military Science and assigning combat experienced officers and NCOs to instructor positions.

BOLD Transformation will "raise the bar" as Cadet Command continues to develop and commission officers and leaders of character capable of thriving in an uncertain operational environment. Cadet Command is developing a more rigorous military science curriculum to be integrated into ROTC college classrooms starting in Academic Year 2014-15. In 2015-16, the CIET course will begin as a requirement for all ROTC cadets, and by 2016, the LDAC will transform to the CLC, providing multi-echelon squad, and platoon-level training events attended by all cadets.

Over the last 30 years, the operational environment has changed, technology has changed and the learning sciences have changed. The revitalization of the Army Senior ROTC program by U.S. Army Cadet Command is critical to acquiring the talent and developing the very best and capable officers and leaders to fight and win our Nation's wars.