Upon graduation from LDAC, I was one of the lucky Cadets afforded the opportunity to attend Cadet Troop Leader Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Shortly after arriving at Columbia Airport, I was taken to Fort Jackson and assigned to E Company, 1-61 Infantry Regiment. E Company was mainly composed of Reserve Drill Sergeants and Officers from a Virginia Army Reserve unit who had volunteered for a 15 month mobilization at Fort Jackson. They were the best Company in the Battalion, the proof being that they continually held the highest BRM and ARM scores, as well as many other Battalion high scores. I personally found this to be due to the fact that most of the company's drill sergeants had volunteered for the mobilization, meaning they actually wanted to be there training soldiers. This taught me that to lead and train soldiers well and to the best of your ability, you must have great zeal and passion for those soldiers and for getting all you can out of each training event.

Prior to arriving at Fort Jackson, I thought I was going to have a very difficult time getting along with and working alongside the Drill Sergeants since I was a "lowly" ROTC Cadet. It was quite the opposite though. Like all NCOs, the Drill Sergeants were very colorful to say the least, but were more than eager to help and correct me when I made mistakes. They were able to do this very professionally as well as courteously, as to avoid making me look bad in front of the Privates. This instilled a confidence that I will be able to go to my first duty assignment and know the kind of professionalism and mentorship I will receive from my future platoon sergeant.

CTLT provided me with great insight to the training of enlisted soldiers as well as how senior NCOs work as a link between them and the platoon leaders. I also learned that NCOs may treat their soldiers harshly and strictly up front, but behind them, their main concern is for soldier’s wellbeing and care. It taught me that as an officer I can expect that, NCOs and Soldiers will support and follow me to the fullest.

My greatest lesson taken from CTLT was that an officer is not only present to issue orders, but to always look out for the safety and wellbeing of their soldiers.
Congratulations to the following MS IV Cadets who were recently named Distinguished Military Students:

- Cadet Emily Rainey - University of Scranton
- Cadet Evan Dimakas - University of Scranton
- Cadet Joshua Soto - University of Scranton
- Cadet Katlyn Brewington - University of Scranton
- Cadet Coren France - University of Scranton
- Cadet Sydney Jaques - University of Scranton
- Cadet Andrew Wycheck - Marywood University
- Cadet Edward Ferkle - Marywood University
- Cadet Kevin Lawrence - King's College
- Cadet Daniel Johnson - East Stroudsburg Univ.
- Cadet James Gonzalez - East Stroudsburg Univ.

Distinguished Military Students must meet the following criteria:

- Must rank in the top 10% of their respective Military Science Program academically.
- Must be active in campus organizations, clubs and activities.
- Must have successfully completed the U.S. Army Cadet Command Leader Development and Assessment Course.
- Must demonstrate aptitude and outstanding potential to serve the Military.
- Must be in overall good standing with in the Military Science program.

Newest Royal Warrior Arrives on 29 August 2011

The entire Royal Warrior family wants to welcome Lucas Thompson to the Battalion. The son of Captain and Mrs. Kristofer Thompson, Lucas was born in Scranton on 29 August 2011. This is the third child for Captain Thompson and his wife, Elena. The Thompson family joined the Battalion on 01 July following duty with the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. Captain Thompson serves as the OIC for the King’s College Detachment, as well as the Military Science 101 Instructor.

Above: MS III Cadets Beekman and Bahlatzis are all smiles at the first Leadership Lab as they show off their jump wings earned at Fort Benning, Georgia this summer. Left: Royal Warriors form up and prepare for the start of the first PT session of the Fall semester.
This summer was amazing. It all started June 30, when I left JFK Airport in New York enroute for the Leaders Development and Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Washington. Once I completed the 29 days of rigorous physical and mental challenging obstacles, I graduated along with my peers from 9th and 10th Regiments on July 28.

The next morning I set off for Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It was here that I would participate in the Nursing Summer Training Program at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital (BACH). From the first day I knew it was going to be an incredible learning opportunity. Everyone there was welcoming and excited for us cadets to be there. After receiving a tour of the hospital, I was invited to go on an Air-evac to pick up five soldiers who just flew in from Landstuhl, Germany, in need of immediate medical treatment. My adrenaline was through the roof! I was so excited to be able to participate in the care of the battlefield warriors. I was then able to follow them through the emergency center. To know I was one of the first faces these men and women saw after being overseas I wanted to try to keep their morale up as best I could.

My assigned nursing mentor, CPT Scott, was head nurse at the Intensive Care Unit. Together we planned out where I would like to distribute my time at BACH. I immediately said more air-evac’s!

I spent a day in the Operating Room, which was very exciting because I was allowed to “scrub in” and learn from the CRNA’s. I also was introduced to the Wounded Warrior Clinic, which is similar to “sick call.” MAJ Puliam was the Nurse Practitioner I followed this day. She was helpful because of her training through the Army Long Term Health Education Program. I never realized how many incredible opportunities the Army has to offer. I now have many short term and long term goals I plan to accomplish! The Leadership Capabilities Map is an interactive online tool that helps Soldiers plan their futures. I highly recommend that all future officers take advantage of it.

I also spent two days in the emergency center. It was here that I really applied my nursing skills. It was constant excitement. I was starting IV’s left and right! I spent time in the Blue Clinic, which is more of a pediatrics unit but it had some adults as well. I gave a presentation on Post-ROSC (return of spontaneous circulation) Induced Hypothermia. This exercise allowed me to educate my unit about a new procedure and also exhibit my leadership skills.

On our final day at the hospital I provided a presentation on the “Patient Caring-Touch System” for COL Napper and the majority of officer nurses at BACH. This presentation was a great success.

I was able to educate myself and all of those new to the system about the Army Healthcare Team.

Working with all of these amazing health care team members made me truly appreciate all those who choose to be a part of some of the hardest training in the world. I learned so much this summer. But what I cherished the most was the teamwork. Whether it was at LDAC or in the hospital, everyone was constantly interacting with one another, communicating sustains and improves. Having been a student nurse in many civilian hospitals I noticed a very different work ethic. The Army Core Values were always in practice. It was nice to have a reminder that all soldiers are always here for the same common purpose. This summer has not only made me a stronger leader but it also has reminded me to be grateful for being able to serve alongside the strongest leaders in the world.