



COMMANDANT'S CHAT

11 March 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 13 March – Merit / Demerit Cutoff
- 17-18 March – Cadet-QTR Board
- 23-27 March – Spring Break
- 30, 31 March; 1, 6 April – Military Assembly
- 2-3 April – Senior Retreat
- 7 April – BFI**
- 8 April – Top 20 Announced
- 9-13 April – Easter Break
- 17-18 April – The Auction
- 19 April – Super Sunday
- 27 April – No School
- 28-30 April – Cadet, NCO, Officer of the Year Boards
- 11,13 May – Review Practice
- 15 May – Mother's Review
- 16 May – Military Ball
- 18 May – Change of Command
- 20 May – Military Awards Night

WHAT IS BFI?

The Brigade Federal Inspection (BFI) is the annual inspection for the Army JROTC program. A team from the University of Minnesota Army ROTC department will come to STA for this day-long inspection. The following areas are inspected:

1. Cadet appearance
2. Cadet JROTC knowledge
3. Cadet drill procedures
4. Program management
5. Logistics
6. School support

The total possible cadet score is 600 points. ***This year, the seniors have established the benchmark of 590 points.*** If this goal is achieved, the Corps will wear the Class B1 uniform for the remainder of the year. (NO TIES!!) A score of 570 or higher will retain the Honor Unit with Distinction (HUD) status. In sum, this inspection is the final exam for each senior class.

BFI Appearance

Overall points will be deducted for:

- Long hair
- Lack of shave
- Wrinkled or dirty uniforms
- Dirty brass
- Scuffed or dirty shoes
- Lack of a proper fit – pant hems

BFI Knowledge

During the day, an inspector may ask a cadet a series of questions; topics include:

- > UNIFORM KNOWLEDGE – What does each item / ribbon mean?
- > RANK STRUCTURE – Can the cadet properly identify rank insignia?
- > CHAIN OF COMMAND – Does the cadet know his chain of command from his cadet squad leader through the President of the United States?
- > CURRICULUM – A selected number of cadets from each LET level will answer questions on material they have learned during the course of year. Each cadet has a curriculum study guide to prepare for this.

BFI PREP

Listed are the important dates that prepare our cadets for the BFI:

- 30 Mar: Military Assembly Day - Class B (Plt Rooms)
- 31 Mar: Military Assembly Day – Class B (review practice)
- 1 April: Military Assembly Day – Uniform Class B. Class A on Hangar.
- 6 April: Military Assembly – Class B. Full rehearsal
- 7 April: **BFI Day.** Cadets arrive NLT 0800 and report to their assigned assembly rooms. Cadets, except for Senior Commanders and Staff, will be released at 1230. NO ACADEMIC CLASSES WILL OCCUR ON 7 APRIL.

Merit / Demerit Cut-off

...is 13 March. OK, so what does this mean??

At the end of each quarter, cadets must have their excess demerits “worked-off” by obtaining merits. If a cadet fails to work-off his demerits by this date (13 March), he will fail LET for the quarter.

How is a cadet in excess status?

Excess is determined by class assignment. Freshmen are allowed 15 demerits per quarter: sophomores, juniors, and seniors are allowed only 10. If a cadet is over this allowed amount (15 / 10), he is considered in excess status.

Do demerits affect the LET grade in other ways?

Yes, if a cadet surpasses 25 total demerits for a quarter, he will automatically lose one letter grade. If he receives a total of 50 or more, he will lose two letter grades.

Why are demerits tied into the LET academic grade?

A compulsory military program is broken down into academic and disciplinary components. A cadet's overall grade is based on his in-class academic performance and his ability to demonstrate personal discipline on a daily basis. Personal discipline is measured through a merit / demerit system.

HOOAH!! to...

- > **K. McMullen '09**, for receiving his appointment to West Point!
- > **J. Lamey '09**, for receiving an appointment to the Naval Academy and ROTC Scholarships to UST and San Diego.
- > **W. Stensland '09**, for receiving a Naval ROTC scholarship to Holy Cross.
- > **S. McGuire '09** and **R. Schaefer '09** for receiving Naval ROTC Scholarships to Iowa State.
- > **J. Bellemo '09**, for receiving an Air Force ROTC scholarship to any university!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide the STA community periodic updates of current events within the Corps of Cadets and the STA Military program. Send questions, comments, and/or good news to Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Michael P. DePuglio, United States Army, Commandant.

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...See you on the high ground!