



# CHCORI CHRONICLES

SPECIAL EDITION

## JCLC

Forty-two Army JROTC cadets from Spotsylvania County's five high schools successfully completed the JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC) at Fort Pickett, VA from July 20-26. Cadets attending Spotsylvania County and Massaponax high schools form the Knight Battalion. Cadets from Chancellor, Courtland, and Riverbend high schools make up the CHCORI Battalion. Regardless of where the student's attend high school, the results from these fairly new JROTC Programs were among the very best.

Cadet Miata Olson was a little intimidated at first. "When I first arrived at JCLC I was kind-of alone, but I met these amazing kids from all these other schools. We had to work together as a team. That's when the party started."

Five-hundred and twenty-one cadets from 48 different high schools in Virginia and North Carolina attended the week-long camp that stressed hands-on leadership as the cadets were challenged in a wide ranging combination of events. Cadets rotated leadership positions. Each day began before the sun came up and didn't end until long after sundown. Cadets were challenged physically, mentally, and emotionally. The events seemed to build upon the others. Some of the major challenges included descending the 54 foot rappel tower, obstacles courses, scaling a rock wall, learning survival skills, using a map and compass to navigate during the day and at night, first aide, creating a one-rope bridge, water-borne operations, marksmanship, leadership reaction courses, marching and drilling as a unit, and physical training. Cadets were in a military environment 24 hours a day—even sleeping in the barracks and eating meals in a military dining facility.

Cadet Joseph Young was impressed with the volume and pace of the operations, "I found out more about myself this week than since I was a small child. This has made me a better person and leader."

Cadet Matt Rappa thought there were some keys to success. "I learned teamwork and how to use each individual's strengths to help to help the unit be successful as a whole. We came together."

Cadet Ellice Sisson believed that effort was important. "You don't have to be the best at everything, but you can always try your best and excel at many things."

Several cadets distinguished themselves earning individual honors. Cadet Nicole Sarmiento (Riverbend) placed first for the female push-up competition. Cadet Shelby Van Zandt (Riverbend) placed first for females in the sit-up competition, and Cadet David Weakley (Chancellor) placed first for the one mile run.





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Two cadets separated themselves from all others. Natacia Wright (Massaponax) was the third-place cadet overall, and Ellice Sisson (Riverbend) was the Honor Graduate (second place) of the 521 cadets.

Cadets earned unit awards as well. Cynthia Alanis, Jonathan Fox, Thomas Raley, Matt Rappa, Ellice Sisson, Darien Boutchyard, Caitlin Harrison, Nickolas Mahin, Nathan Anderson, and Natacia Wright were members of the Honor Company. Cadets Brea Farrington, Eric Haynes, Taylor Paire, Andrew Quann, and Wesley Wiberg were part of the Honor Platoon and also took first place in Drill. Cadet James Griczin was a member of the second place honor platoon. Cadets Terrell Hood, Miata Olson, Nicole Sarmento, and Shelby Van Zandt were part of the third place Honor Platoon. Cadets Brandon Fisher and Amber Burcham were members of the platoon that took second place in drill. Cadets Darien Boutchyard, Caitlin Harrison, Nickolas Mahin, and Nathan Anderson were members of the platoon that took third place in drill.

Terrell Hood and Brandon Fisher were members of the first and third place rope-bridge squad, respectively. Miata Olson helped her squad earn first place for the physical fitness test. Eric Haynes and Wesley Wiberg contributed to their squad earning first place for poncho raft and second place for the rope bridge. Jessica Mondragon led her squad to first place in hasty log float. Amber Burcham was a member of the first place zodiac boat race team. Matt Rappa led his squad to second place for orienteering. Jonathan Fox pushed hard to help his squad earn third place for the physical fitness test. Nicole Sarmento led the way for her squad to earn third place in orienteering. Other cadets that attended JCLC are Allan Cahill, Charles Duckett, Mitchell Harrison, Ricky Johns, Cameron Lee, Micah Pody, Rey Rivera, Robert Schweibold, Falon Stimpson, Dakota Hare, Stevenson Jones, Cory Muller, Ariana McKnight, Samuel Scott, Charles Sims, and Justin Sisk.

Cadets believe that what they learned this week was especially beneficial for their units. Most JROTC units are part of a single high school. The five Spotsylvania County high schools combine to form two JROTC units. The cadets came to JCLC from all over and were able to bond into strong units.

Cadet Charles Duckett stated, "Teamwork is key."

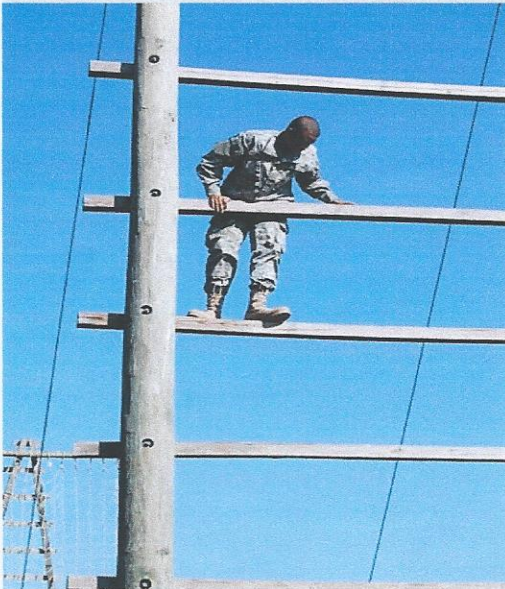
Cadet Micah Pody agreed. "We were together. Back at school, our battalion motto calls for us to all be 'As One'. I've seen that happen at JCLC. I can help make that happen at home, too."

Cadet Thomas Raley had a simpler reaction. "I had fun. This was HOOAH!"





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A cadet climbing the wall for the obstacle course.



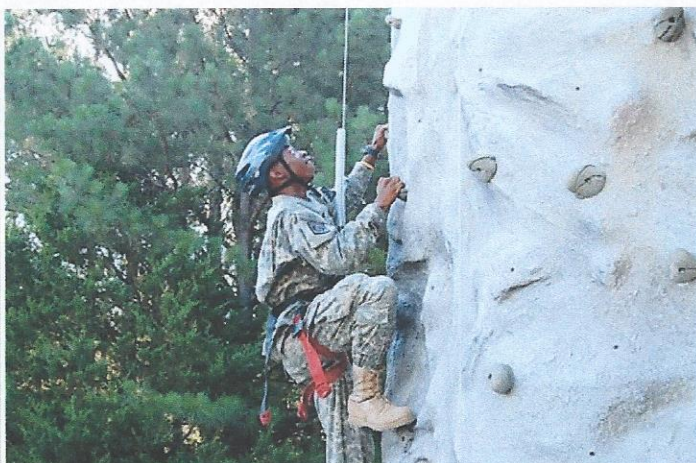
Cadets were required to always have full can tines to keep hydrated.



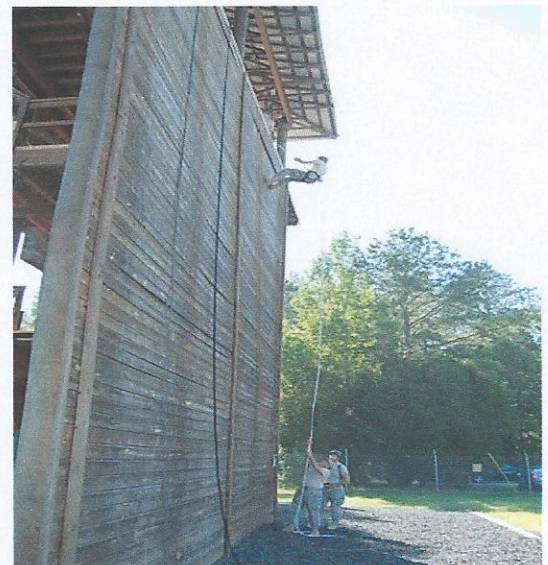
Cadets were challenged to work as a team to get to the ball on the other side of the lake.



Cadets were assigned to be in platoons with other cadets they have never met.



Cadets were given the chance to climb the rock wall.



The repel tower was one of the biggest challenges at JCLC Camp.