

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

# BSU ROTC

BOWIE STATE ROTC:

## A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

### Newsletter Highlights

DISTINGUISHED MILITARY GRADUATES  
MEET THE MS4'S  
ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT  
SUMMER RECAPS







## LETTER FROM THE Professor of Military Science

As the newly appointed Professor of Military Science for the Bulldog Battalion, it is both an honor and a privilege to share a few words in this year's Alumni Newsletter. Since assuming this role in July 2024, I have had the distinct pleasure of working alongside an exceptional group of cadets. This commissioning class holds a special place in my heart as the first to complete their journey under my leadership. Watching them grow into confident, capable leaders has been an incredibly rewarding experience. The commissioning class of 2024-2025 embodies the finest qualities of Bowie State University—boldness, resilience, determination, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. I could not be more proud of what they have accomplished, and I am energized by the impact I know they will make in their careers as officers in the United States Army.

This year is truly historic for the Bulldog Battalion. We are celebrating a record-breaking achievement as we commission 24 outstanding cadets into the ranks of the U.S. Army. These future leaders have earned the distinct honor to lead America's sons and daughters in formations across the world. They are ready—ready to add immediate value, lead with integrity, and serve with distinction. Among them, we are proud to announce five Distinguished Military Graduates, an honor reserved for cadets who rank among the top performers nationwide in academics, leadership, and physical fitness. Their success is a testament to their relentless drive and dedication. In addition to these individual accomplishments, the Bulldog Battalion achieved a 100% graduation rate at Cadet Summer Training. This remarkable feat demonstrates not only the preparedness and resilience of our cadets but also the quality of instruction, mentorship, and training they received here at Bowie State. Our cadets excelled in one of the most demanding leadership crucibles ROTC has to offer, and they represented this program and university with pride and distinction. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of many individuals and organizations who have stood by our program and our cadets. First and foremost, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Families of our cadets. To the parents, spouses, siblings, and loved ones who have been there every step of the way—thank you. Your encouragement, patience, and unconditional love have been the foundation that allowed these young men and women to persevere and excel. We share this accomplishment with you. I will also like to recognize the dedicated cadre and staff of the Bulldog Battalion. Your tireless commitment to developing, mentoring, and preparing these cadets has made all the difference. Your countless hours of hard work, leadership, and passion for the mission have created an environment where our cadets could thrive. Thank you for everything you do to build the next generation of Army leaders. To our distinguished alumni and senior leaders—your continued investment in our cadets has been invaluable. Whether through mentorship, guest lectures, or offering words of encouragement and wisdom, your contributions have helped shape and inspire these future officers. You are living examples of what it means to be a Bulldog, and your legacy continues to guide and motivate those who follow in your footsteps.



I would be remiss if I did not also thank our campus leadership, faculty, and staff at Bowie State University, along with our valued community partners. Your steadfast support has been a cornerstone of our success. Whether through academic support, access to resources, or fostering a culture that encourages excellence both inside and outside the classroom, your partnership with the Bulldog Battalion has empowered our cadets to achieve greatness. Together, we have built a program that continues to serve as a beacon of excellence within the ROTC community. Although small in size, the Bulldog Battalion continues to punch far above its weight class. Our cadets have embraced the rigors of training—from demanding field exercises and challenging land navigation to challenging physical fitness sessions. They have risen to every challenge with grit, determination, and an unbreakable warrior spirit. Our success has not gone unnoticed. I am proud to share that the Bulldog Battalion was once again recognized as the #1 Historically Black College and University (HBCU) program within our brigade during this year's Ranger Challenge competition. Competing against some of the best programs in the region, our cadets demonstrated teamwork, discipline, and resilience, proving that the Bulldog Battalion is a force to be reckoned with. As we celebrate this commissioning milestone, I am filled with optimism for the future. The Army is gaining 24 remarkable leaders who will undoubtedly make a positive impact on our formations and continue to uphold the proud legacy of this battalion. These cadets—soon to be Second Lieutenants—exemplify the values of leadership, service, and excellence that define both our university and our Army. To the Class of 2024-2025: You have set a high standard and left a legacy that will inspire future generations of Bulldogs. It has been my absolute honor to serve as your Professor of Military Science. You have made me, this program, and Bowie State University proud. I look forward to watching your careers flourish and hearing about the remarkable things you will accomplish as leaders in the world's greatest Army. Always remember to Be All You Can Be! Be Bowie Bold! because you are Bulldog Built! Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way!

With great pride and respect,

LTC Roger Dominique





# BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ARMY ROTC 2024-2025

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# LEADERSHIP WITH HONOR

## RICHARD W. COLLINS III LEADERSHIP WITH HONOR SCHOLARSHIP

In an effort to preserve the legacy of slain Bowie State alumnus Lt. Richard Collins III, the State of Maryland has launched a \$1M annual scholarship fund to help students gain a quality education and excellent leadership skills to meet their professional goals.

### Eligibility

Funds are available to students enrolled full-time at one of Maryland's three historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) – Bowie State University, Morgan State University and Coppin State University. Applicants must also be a:

- Maryland resident
- U.S. citizen
- Minority student

### Award Amount

Scholarship amounts vary based on the applicant's financial need, which is determined by the FAFSA. Recipients will receive a minimum award of \$500 per semester.

### Why ROTC?

Through a combination of rigorous academics, hands-on field experience and physical training, the ROTC prepares students to become well-rounded leaders ready to take on any challenge. Upon completion of the program, not only will cadets earn a degree but also a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army.

### Apply

- Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). Or submit the Maryland State Financial Aid Application through the Maryland College Aid Processing Portal (MDCAPS) website, if you are ineligible to receive federal aid, but are eligible for in-state tuition by July 1, 2025.
- For best consideration, apply early by Thursday, May 15, 2025. Applicants now must upload all of their own documents. Get ahead of the game. Final application deadline is July 1, 2025.
- Complete the scholarship application online through MDCAPS website.
- Submit Richard W. Collins III Leadership with Honor Scholarship 2025-2026 Institutional Verification Form to Mrs. Montrose Robinson at 301-860-3563 or [mrobinson@bowiestate.edu](mailto:mrobinson@bowiestate.edu).
- Submit documentation to BSU Army ROTC program that you are a minority student.





Bowie State University  
Alumni Spotlight

**LTC LEON H.  
MATTHIAS JR.**



## BSU Alumni LTC Matthias shares a brief overview of his career journey from commissioning to becoming a LTC in the Military Intelligence Corps



As I reflect on my military career, I am reminded of the strong foundation I built as a cadet in the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Bowie State University. I commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 2004 and later transitioned to Military Intelligence in 2008. My educational background includes a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Bowie State University and a Master's Degree in Government Information Leadership from National Defense University.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to attend several military education courses, including the Command and General Staff College, Army Intelligence Development Program, Military Intelligence Captain's Career Course, and the Infantry Officer Basic Course. These experiences have not only broadened my knowledge, but also prepared me for the diverse roles I've held.

I've had the privilege of serving in various assignments, starting with the 3rd Infantry Division, where I led as a Mechanized Infantry Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, and Battalion Intelligence Officer. After completing the Military Intelligence Captain's Career Course in 2009, I was assigned to Fort Bragg, NC, where I served as a Battalion Intelligence Officer in the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade and Company Commander in the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade.

In 2014, I completed the Combined Arms Services Staff College and continued my service at Fort Bragg, NC, as a Division Collection Manager and Brigade Intelligence Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division. My career has also taken me to South Korea, where I served as a Collection Manager in 8th Army and Battalion Operations Officer in the 501st Military Intelligence Brigade. In 2018, I was assigned to Warner Robins Air Force Base, where I worked on the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar (JSTARS) System as a crew-member and JSTARS Detachment Commander in the 116th Military Intelligence Brigade. I returned to Fort Bragg in 2021, where I served as the G2 for the U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command, and Battalion Commander for Fort Bragg's Soldier Recovery Unit. I currently serve as Deputy Brigade Commander for the 525th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade and I'm preparing to attend Senior Service College in the summer of 2025. I am proud to have had these opportunities and am grateful for the leadership skills and values that my time in the Bowie State University ROTC program instilled in me. I hope my story can inspire and motivate current cadets to pursue their own paths to success.



## How has your education at Bowie State University influenced your military career?

My education at Bowie State University (BSU) profoundly influenced my military career by shaping me into a well-rounded leader prepared for the challenges of service. The university fostered a collaborative and encouraging environment that allowed me to grow emotionally, spiritually, physically, and socially both in comfortable and uncomfortable situations.

Through the BSU ROTC program, I developed the discipline, leadership, and resilience required for military service. The program instilled the importance of teamwork, effective communication, and commitment essential qualities for a military career. The rigorous training (Ranger Challenge), combined with academic responsibilities, prepared you to handle high-pressure situations with confidence and poise.

Similarly, my experience with the BSU Marching Band reinforced the values of discipline, consistency, and teamwork. The long hours of practice and performance demanded unwavering

dedication, mental toughness, and time management skills that directly translated to your ability to balance multiple responsibilities in the military. The sense of camaraderie and shared purpose within the band mirrored the teamwork essential to military life, further reinforcing my ability to work as part of a unit.

Both programs kept me extremely busy outside the classroom, ensuring there was no time for idle hands. This structured, high-energy environment taught me to embrace hard work, push past limitations, and remain focused on personal and professional growth.

The lessons learned at BSU.... discipline, resilience, adaptability, and commitment became the foundation of my success in the military, shaping me into a strong, capable leader ready to take on any challenge.





## What key skills or knowledge areas should new 2LTs and Cadets focus on before entering the operational force?

As new 2LTs prepare to enter the operational force, it's essential to focus on developing key skills and knowledge areas that will enable them to succeed in their roles as leaders. While technical expertise is crucial, I firmly believe that the following skills are equally important:

1. **Effective Communication:** The ability to communicate clearly, concisely, and persuasively is vital in any leadership role. New 2LTs should focus on developing their verbal and written communication skills, including active listening, public speaking, and writing. They should be able to articulate their thoughts, ideas, and intentions in a way that resonates with their team, peers, and superiors.
2. **Social and Emotional Intelligence:** Social and emotional intelligence is critical in building strong relationships, managing conflict, and making informed decisions. New 2LTs should strive to develop self-awareness, empathy, and social skills that will enable them to navigate complex social dynamics and build trust with their teams.
3. **Willingness to Learn:** The military is a dynamic and ever-changing environment, and new 2LTs should be eager to learn and adapt to new situations, technologies, and procedures. They should be open to feedback, constructive criticism, and mentorship, and be willing to ask questions and seek guidance when needed.
4. **Active Listening:** The ability to listen effectively is a critical component of communication and leadership. New 2LTs should focus on developing their active listening skills, including maintaining eye contact, asking clarifying questions, and paraphrasing to ensure understanding.
5. **Leadership Development:** New 2LTs should strive to learn from experienced leaders, peers, and subordinates, and seek to understand their strengths and weaknesses. By doing so, they can develop a deeper understanding of what motivates and inspires their team members, and learn how to bring out the best in them.





To achieve these skills, I recommend that new 2LTs:

- Seek out mentorship and guidance from experienced leaders and peers
- Engage in self-reflection and self-assessment to identify areas for improvement
- Practice active listening and effective communication in all interactions
- Be open to feedback and constructive criticism
- Focus on building strong relationships with their team, peers, and superiors
- Strive to learn from failures and setbacks, and use them as opportunities for growth and development

**How do you handle the challenges of leading Soldiers with technical expertise while still developing your own knowledge?**

As a leader, I believe that handling the challenges of leading Soldiers with technical expertise while still developing my own knowledge requires a healthy dose of humility. It's essential to recognize that, as a 2LT, you don't have all the answers, and that's okay. In fact, no one expects you to have all the answers. What they do expect is your willingness to learn, adapt, and grow alongside the team you are charged in leading.

Humility is key in this regard. I understand that I'm not the expert in every area, and that's okay. My role as a leader is not to have all the answers but to create an environment where my team can thrive, grow, and develop their skills. By being humble, open-minded, and willing to learn, I can build trust with my team, foster a culture of collaboration and innovation, and ultimately achieve our mission objectives. By embracing humility and recognizing the strengths and expertise of my team, I can lead with confidence, even when I don't have all the answers. And that's a powerful thing.

In the end, it's not about being the smartest person in the room or having all the answers. It's about being willing to learn, listen, and grow alongside my team. By doing so, I can build a strong, cohesive team that's capable of achieving great things, even when faced with complex technical challenges









# Graduate Cadets



**Doukoury  
Allo**  
**Cyber Corps**  
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire  
Master Information  
Technology & Systems  
Engineer



**LaTyrah  
Beasley**  
**Ordnance Corps**  
Toledo, Ohio  
Master of Business  
Administration



**Jaquai  
Bell**  
**Transportation Corps**  
Capitol Heights, Maryland  
Master of Business  
Administration



**Youssef  
Benin**  
**Signal Corps**  
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso  
Master of Business  
Administration



**Laniya  
Boyd**  
**Quartermaster Corps**  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma  
Master of Science in  
Information Systems &  
Sciences



**Anthony  
Cole**  
**Medical Services**  
Tela, Honduras  
Master of Business  
Administration



**Geoff  
Dominguez**  
**Adjutant General**  
Vallejo, California  
Master of Arts in  
Organizational  
Communication



**Daniel  
Emeruem**  
**Cyber Corps**  
Largo, Maryland  
Master of Science in  
Information Systems &  
Sciences

# Undergraduate Cadets



**Chris  
Ambrico**  
**Signal Corps**  
Melbourne, Florida  
Bachelor of Science in  
Communications  
Broadcast Journalism



**Breanna  
Appling**  
**Quartermaster Corps**  
Prince George, Maryland  
Bachelor of Science in  
Communication  
Broadcast Journalism



**Givauni  
Armstrong**  
**Aviation**  
Spanish Town, Jamaica  
Bachelor of Science in  
Communications  
Broadcast Journalism



**Johannes Paolo  
Chavez**  
**Signal Corps**  
Manila, Philippines  
Bachelor of Science in  
Communications  
Public Relations





**Delmar  
Davis**

**Medical Services**  
Perry, Georgia,  
Bachelor of Science in  
Communications  
Broadcast Journalism



**Oluwabukolami  
Gbadeyan**

**Medical Services**  
Lagos, Nigeria  
Bachelor of Science in  
Biology



**Lawrence  
Highsmith**

**Corps of Engineers**  
Jacksonville, Florida  
Bachelor of Science in .  
Communications  
Broadcast Journalism



**Maurice  
Jackson**

**Military Intelligence**  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
Bachelor of Science in  
Communications  
Broadcast Journalism



**Marc  
Manning**

**Medical Services**  
Queens, New York  
Bachelor of Science in  
Communications  
Broadcast Journalism



**Cameron  
Smith**

**Signal Corps**  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Bachelor of Science in  
Communications  
Broadcast Journalism



**Jarne  
Smith**

**Military Police Corps**  
San Diego, California  
Bachelor of Science in  
Communications  
Broadcast Journalism



**Adonis  
Soul**

**Armor Corps**  
New York, New York  
Bachelor of Science in  
Communication  
Broadcast Journalism



**Johann  
Sy**

**Medical Services**  
Manila, Philippines  
Bachelor of Science in .  
Communications  
Broadcast Journalism



**Nicholas  
Wilson**

**Military Intelligence**  
Westmoreland, Jamaica  
Bachelor of Science in .  
Communication  
Broadcast Journalism





2LT Doukory Allo  
Cyber Corps

**Interests:** Working out, sports, movies, enjoying time with family, Serve Jesus .

**Career Goals:** Serve 20+ years and go as far possible in the officer rank whilst attend military schools.

**Favorite Quote:** "The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails." - John Maxwell



**Interests:** Playing Sports, Watching Sports, Improving physical fitness, Traveling the world, Learning new cultures

**Career Goals:** Serve 20 years +, Go to different military schools, Be a company commander, Always try to gain knowledge from my peers to become a better leader

**Favorite Quote:** "Job Not Finished" - Kobe Bryant



2LT Chris Ambrico  
Signal Corps



2LT Breanna Appling  
Quartermaster Corps

**Interests:** Music, Animals , Traveling, Museums, Photography, volunteering, shooting range

**Career Goals:** Become the first female to do something great in the military, Get more hands on experience with my job and become the greatest Quartermaster ever seen.

**Favorite Quote:** "If your not ready you better get ready because here I come "- Breanna Appling







2LT Givauni Armstrong  
Army Aviation

**Interests:** Skydiving , Sports , Music , Physical Fitness , Video Games & Traveling.

**Career Goals:** Attend Ranger School, Complete Master's degree in Aviation Safety, Mentor and Lead Soldiers, Retire after 20 years.

**Favorite Quote:** "Don't tell me the sky's the limit when there's footprints on the moon" Paul Brandt



**Interests:** God, Basketball, The Gym Singing, Traveling and Trying New Food

**Career Goals:** Being role model. Continue to mentor others. Leave a legacy and an impact. To live my life according to Gods plan and not my own.

**Favorite Quote:** "But as for you be strong, and do not give up, for all your hard work will be rewarded"



2LT LaTyrah Beasley  
Ordnance Corps

**Interests:** Esports, Being an Athlete, Football, Basketball, Baseball, Playing Video games, Pizza, Movies

**Career Goals:** I would like to still play professional Baseball, work in a professional sports league as a HR manager of any area.

**Favorite Quote:** "A hero can be anyone"  
Kevin Conroy (Batman)



2LT Jaquai Bell  
Transportation Corps





2LT Youssouf Benin  
Signal Corps

**Interests:** Working out, Road trips, Cooking, Family time, Reading, Writing, Combat Sports.

**Career Goals:** Develop leadership and technical skills needed for professional growth

**Favorite Quote:** *"You don't rise to the level of your goals, you fall to the level of your systems."* — James Clear



**Interests:** Traveling, gardening, environmental science, arts, reading/writing, animals, and lacrosse.

**Career Goals:** Earn a Master of Science in Information Systems. Achieve financial freedom for early retirement.

**Favorite Quote:** *"He who would be a leader let him be a bridge."* - Unknown



2LT LaNiyah, Boyd  
Quartermaster Corps

**Interests:** Holistic Self-Development, Family, Mentorship, Running

**Career Goals:** Be an expert in my career field, gain financial freedom, serve 20 years

**Favorite Quote:** *"Our deepest fear is not that we're inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we're powerful beyond measure...as we let our own light shine, we consciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others."*



2LT Johannes Chavez  
Signal Corps





2LT Anthony Cole  
Medical Services

**Interests:** Family, musical instruments, outdoor activities, running, building relationships.

**Career Goals:** Become the leader that Soldiers deserve, Be a changing agent that will contribute to better lives, serve in the special operations community.

**Favorite Quote:** "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country." John F. Kennedy



**Interests:** Team building, building partnerships, traveling, fitness, and hiking

**Career Goals:** Pursuing another graduate degree, work towards personal development, and experience career stability/retire after 20 years of service

**Favorite Quote:** "Just be yourself"



2LT Geoff Dominguez  
Adjutant General



2LT Delmar Davis III  
Medical Services

**Interests:** Spending time with Family, The Outdoors, Sports, Music, Arts, Museums, Concerts, Traveling, Fitness

**Career Goals:** Strive to continue to become the very best leader/Soldier that I can be, with also influencing others to do so as well.

**Favorite Quote:** "Mamba Mentality, Godspeed"  
Joshua 1:9







2LT Daniel Emeruem  
Cyber Corps

**Interests:** Fitness, Seeking a better relationship with God

**Career Goals:** Doctorate degree, and operating my own cybersecurity company

**Favorite Quote:** "Na' Only God"



**Interests:** Traveling, Playing Sports, Working in Church, Dentistry.

**Career Goals:** Become an Army dentist, combining my passion for healthcare with my commitment to serving others.

**Favorite Quote:** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13



2LT Oluwabukolami Gbadeyan  
Medical Services



2LT Aaron Highsmith  
Combat Engineer

**Interests:** I enjoy spending time with family and being outdoors; I enjoy sports, including Hunting, fishing, football, and baseball.

**Career Goals:** My career goals are to attend SAPPER and Ranger school. I aspire to be the best engineering officer I know I can be to mold and mentor future soldiers.

**Favorite Quote:** "Are you the Egg, the Coffee Bean, or the Carrot?"







2LT Maurice Jackson  
Military Intelligence

**Interests:** Family time, fishing, biking, football, hiking, physical fitness, & gaming

**Career Goals:** Ensure accuracy and reliability of intelligence reports. Building leadership skills to manage and mentor intelligence teams.

**Favorite Quote:** The wise store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.  
Proverbs 10:14



**Interests:** Training jiu-jitsu, taekwondo, sports, traveling with family.

**Career goals:** create legacy of honor that my children will respect and be proud of !

**Favorite quote:** "success is due to our stretching to the challenges of life. Failure comes when we shrink from them." - John Maxwell



2LT Marc Manning  
Medical Services



2LT Cameron Smith  
Signal Corps

**Interests:** Learning new things, weight-lifting, and traveling.

**Career Goals:** Retire from the Army, mentor and lead soldiers to the best of my ability.

**Favorite Quote:** "Get comfortable being uncomfortable".







2LT Adonis Soul  
Armor Corps

**Interest:** Physical activity, honing leadership skills, improving interpersonal skills

**Career Goals:** Tactical schools that bettering his understanding of operational environments.

**Favorite Quote:** "Heavy is the head that wears the crown" - Shakespeare's Henry IV



**Interests:** cooking, trying cuisines from different places, trying coffee shops

**Career Goals:** Mentor my Soldiers and be influential while I pursue my Masters degree in Healthcare Administration.

**Favorite Quote:** "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - C.S. Lewis



2LT Johann Sy  
Medical Services



2LT Nicholas Wilson  
Military Intelligence

**Interests:** Hunting, Fishing, Outdoor activities, Cooking, Competitive Atmosphere

**Career Goals:** Being an effective leader impacting throughout the ranks

**Favorite Quote:** Competition instill progress  
Progress Breads Success





A photograph of four ROTC cadets in camouflage uniforms standing in a grassy field under a clear blue sky. The cadets are holding rifles. The text is overlaid on the image.

# DISTINGUISHED MILITARY GRADUATES HIGHSMITH ARMSTRONG CHAVEZ DAVIS JACKSON

This academic year, we had the honor of recognizing five Distinguished Military Graduates (DMGs). To earn this prestigious title, cadets must rank in the top 20% of all graduating ROTC cadets across the nation.

These cadets have demonstrated exceptional dedication, excelling academically, physically, and as leaders throughout their time in the Bulldog Battalion. Their ability to balance multiple responsibilities while consistently exceeding expectations highlights their readiness to lead as commissioned officers in the United States Army. The title of DMG is a lifelong distinction, marking these cadets as top-tier leaders even before commissioning as Second Lieutenants. Their unwavering commitment to excellence and leadership has placed them among the best in the nation, reflected in their high placement on the national Order of Merit List. These cadets have surpassed military standards and excelled academically, proving their ability to lead with intelligence, resilience, and professionalism. Their achievements are a testament to their hard work and dedication, and we proudly celebrate their success. There is no doubt that these Cadets will continue to represent Bulldog Battalion and Bowie State University as remarkable leaders no matter where they go next.





# HIGHSMITH

Distinguished  
Military Graduate

## TOP 6%



### **What does 'leadership' mean to you, and how has ROTC shaped your understanding of it?**

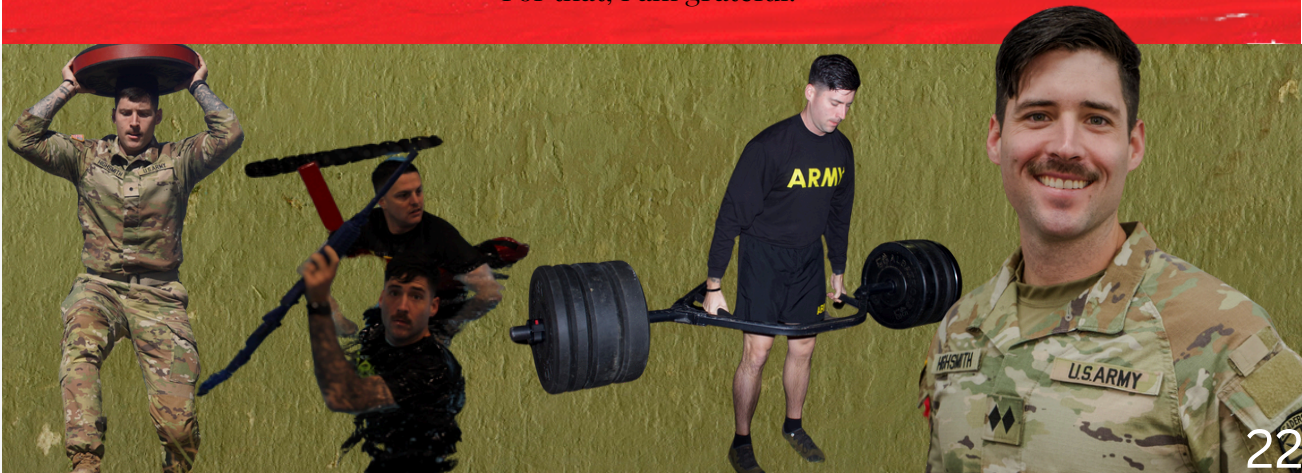
Leadership is the ability to inspire, guide, and empower others to achieve a common goal while maintaining integrity, accountability, and resilience. It is not just about giving orders but about setting an example, making tough decisions, and ensuring the success of the team before yourself. True leadership instills purpose, direction, and motivation. This is measured by the impact you have on those you lead—helping them grow, perform, and succeed.

### **What key factors contributed to your success in ROTC?**

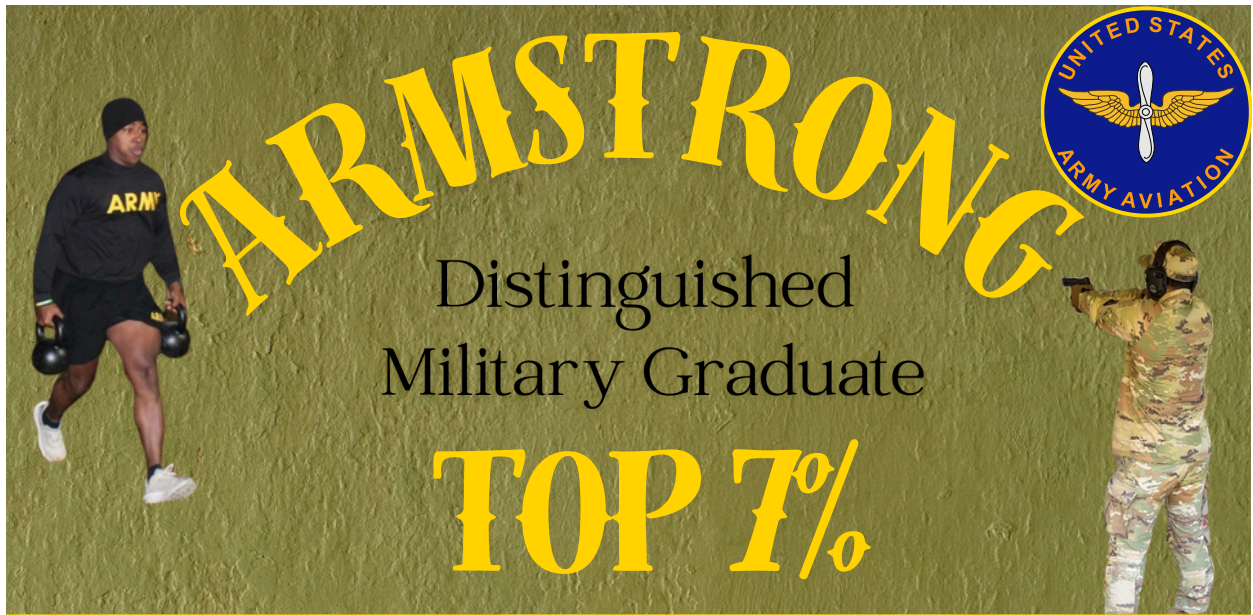
My Success in ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) depended on multiple things. Primarily, I give credit to God. Without whom I would not be where I am today. Additionally, my success in ROTC heavily relied on my ability to lead, physical fitness, academic performance, and my commitment to military values. If there was any advice, I could give to someone within ROTC, it would be to take initiative and lead by example, whether that be physically or academically. Demonstrate confidence through your decision-making skill and effectively communicate with your superiors and subordinates.

### **What are some of your favorite memories from your time in ROTC?**

Building connections with like-minded individuals has been an invaluable experience. In my military journey, it is rare to find such a driven and ambitious group in one place. Their determination inspired me to push my own limits, helping me grow into a better version of myself. For that, I am grateful.







**What key factors contributed to your success in ROTC?**

**Accountability:** This is the first thing I ensured was my journey's cornerstone. I ensure that I owned everything I did/did not do regardless of the outcome that may arise from it.

**Procrastination:** the delay is dangerous; I ensure what's on my plate right now gets done before taking on the next task, as a pile might fluster your brain without clarity.

**Asking for help:** I did not have all the answers, so I used the resources immediately available to me while seeking help. However, I did my due diligence in self-learning before exhausting all other options.

**What surprised you most about your ROTC experience?**

As a green to gold cadet, the amount of catching up I would have to do this in order to be competitive in securing the branch that I want. Coming in as the underdog, I had to ensure I did not leave anything up to chance. I controlled what I could control and gave my best to the rest.

**What are you most looking forward to in your military career?**

The challenges and rewards that come with the career field of being an Army Aviator. I understand it will not be all sunshine and rainbows, but I am here when the going gets tough because the tough gets going. I also look forward to giving America's sons & daughters the best version of myself daily until I retire.







# CHAVEZ

## Distinguished Military Graduate

# TOP 13%



**Who has been the most influential mentor during your ROTC experience, what did you learn from them?**

Each of my peers brought unique skills, experiences, and perspectives to the table. Some might excel in physical fitness, others in academics, leadership, or problem-solving. Observing how they approach challenges and leverage their strengths broadened my own understanding and skill set. By simply standing alongside these “giants,” I learned different leadership styles, communication techniques, and ways of tackling problems. As the saying goes, “iron sharpens iron,” and my peers, now friends, helped me hone those skills.

**How has ROTC changed you as a person?**

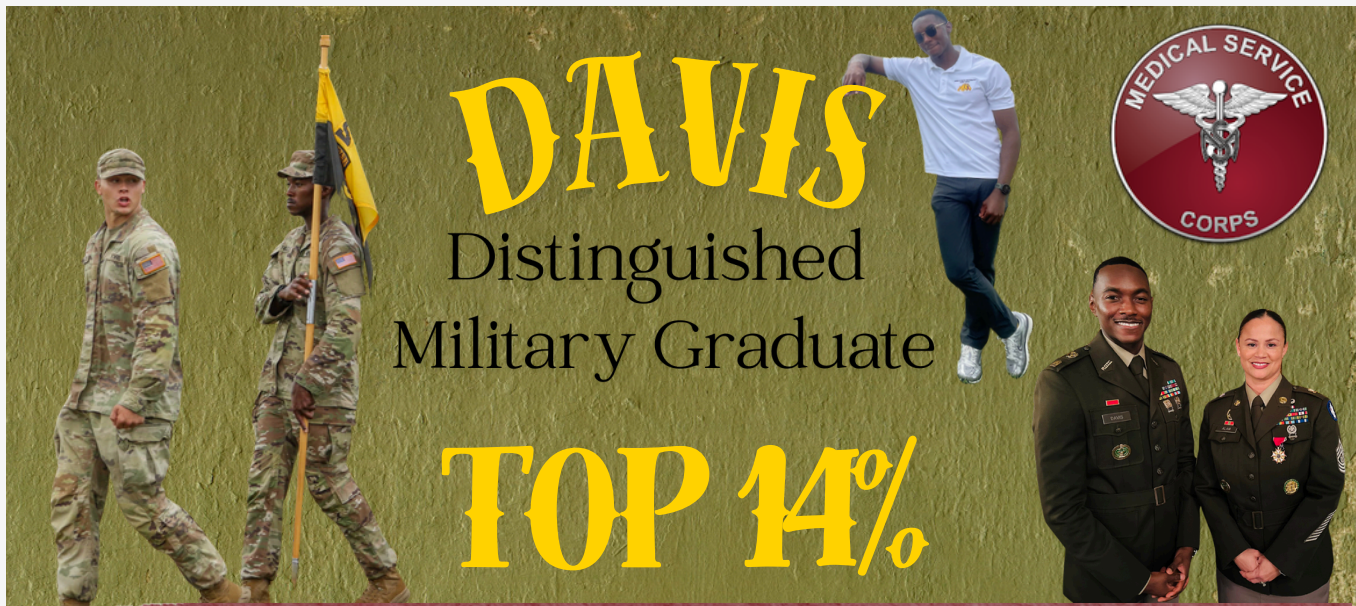
ROTC doesn’t just train me for my military career; it cultivates essential life-long lessons and skills that serve me well in any path I choose. It molded and continues to mold me into a more disciplined, resilient, confident, communicative, and responsible individual.

**What are some of your favorite memories from your time in ROTC?**

Navigating demanding physical training, field exercises, and study sessions together created strong bonds. Overcoming these challenges forged camaraderie and mutual respect. I learned to rely on others, celebrate each other's successes, and offer support during tough times. Being able to share my experiences, both the triumphs and the struggles, with my friends and family helped them understand my commitment and the personal growth I am undergoing. Their understanding and encouragement made my ROTC journey more meaningful.







**What were the key factors that contributed to your success in ROTC?**

I always give credit, first and foremost, to God—without Him, I wouldn't be where I am today. Secondly, I want to thank my family and friends for keeping me focused on my purpose; I'm incredibly grateful for my inner circle. Lastly but not the least, I want to acknowledge my classmates for pushing me to become the best version of myself. They're some of the best cadets out there!

**What are some of your favorite memories from your time in ROTC?**

Connecting with like-minded individuals has been invaluable. In my military experience, it's rare to find a group of highly ambitious people in one place. Seeing them push themselves motivated me to do the same, ultimately helping me grow into a better version of myself. For that, I am truly grateful.

**What specific leadership experience from your time in ROTC that significantly impacted your growth?**

Serving as the Cadet Command Sergeant Major taught me valuable lessons in patience and resilience. When I first joined the program, I thought I had much of it figured out, but I soon realized that growth was essential to succeeding in this role. I'm truly grateful to the cadre members for giving me the opportunity to lead and grow alongside others.







# JACKSON

Distinguished  
Military Graduate

## TOP 18%



**What specific skills or qualities are essential for a successful ROTC cadet and now a future officer?**  
Essential qualities include discipline, adaptability, and strong communication skills. A successful cadet must also be a team player and a proactive problem solver.

**What does 'leadership' mean to you, and how has ROTC shaped your understanding of it?**  
Leadership means inspiring and empowering others to achieve their best. ROTC has shown me authentic leadership is about service, integrity, and leading by example. Ralph Nader said that the function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers.

**As a DMG, you've demonstrated exceptional leadership. Can you share a specific leadership experience from your time in ROTC that significantly impacted your growth?**  
Leading a team during a high-stakes field exercise taught me the importance of trust and effective communication. It was a pivotal moment that reinforced my belief in the power of teamwork. Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge.







# *ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT*

Cadets Beasley, Bell and English are exemplary athletes who juggled sports while being active in the Bulldog Battalion.



# NAOMI ENGLISH



## Cross-Country



While juggling responsibilities as a Bulldog Battalion MS3, Cadet Naomi English placed 7th in the 2024 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), helping her team successfully finish 4th overall at the Jack St. Clair cross country invite to Belmont Plateau. Her need for speed did not stop there as later on in the semester English laced up her shoes to compete in the Army 10-miler. Her presence inevitably boosted morale within the Bulldog Battalion Pushup team, and on the Ranger Challenge Team where she was a strong competitor.





# JACQUAI BELL



## E-Sports & Lacrosse



Jaquai Bell is graduating with his Masters of Business Administration Degree. While juggling academics, ROTC, and numerous extra curricular activities he has competed in both Collegiate Lacrosse and as an E-sports Athlete. For E-sports, he was ranked 1st seed in EA College Football in the Nation (2024) and ranked top 7 in HBCU Madden 23 (2023). Alongside his brother, Cadet Bell is an assistant coach for Bowie State Universities inaugural women's flag football team.







# LATYRAH BEASLEY



## Women's Basketball

Cadet Beasley participated on the All Army women's basketball team during her MS3 year, academic year 2023-2024! Beasley, tried out for All Army and successfully made the team in September 2023. During this time she endured intense physical training at Fort Bliss for all while exceeding academic expectations. while being absent during the duration of September-November during the academic school year. Cadet Beasley is a former collegiate player currently attending Bowie State to obtain her Masters, she holds two university records at her previous school. She has played professionally overseas and led her team to a championship in Santiago, DR in 2022. She currently plays for Fort Bragg women's post basketball team.





# Ranger Challenge



**Cadets Soul, Saveeedra, Ubah, Willis, Jaiyeola, English, Gakodi, Aka, Cole, and Ubogu were participants in this years ranger challenge. They placed number 1 out of all HBCUs in 4th brigadee ROTC. The Ranger challenge team was led by Cadet Gakodi, whose physical presence held strong to those participating in the ranger challenge.**

# Push-up Team



**Cadets Whittington, Gakodi, Ako, Austin, Pittman, Ubah, Classen, Jaiyelo, and English gather as the push up team for all of Bowie State Universities home football games. The pushup team was led by both Cadets Ako and Whittington. Throughout the football season the team boosted morale and increased esprit de corps whilst also increasing ROTC visibility amongst hundreds of potential future cadet recruits.**





# Color Guard

**Cadets Pittman, English, Pachhai, Classen, Ubah, Jacobs and Brown were led by MSIV color guard OIC Cadet Marc Manning in this year's color guard team. Their efforts were utilized in various events on campus at Bowie State University, such as the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Martin Luther King Jr. building, home football games, a Maryland Black Bears game and many school and local events throughout the 2024-2025 academic school year.**







# CADET SUMMER TRAINING

## ADVANCED CAMP 2024

THIS SUMMER WE HAD ALL 25 CADETS COMPLETE CST AT FORT KNOX KENTUCKY, THIS IS ONE OF THE MAJOR COMMISSIONING REQUIREMENTS FOR ROTC CADETS WHICH CONSISTS OF 35 DAYS OF GRUELING TRAINING FROM SHOOTING RANGES, FIELD EXERCISES, FACING OUR FEAR OF HEIGHTS AND MANY MORE BOWIE STATE WAS ABLE TO COMPLETE EACH TASKS.





I was awarded The USAA Warrior Ethos Award which is given to cadets at the Cadet Summer Training (CST) who best demonstrate the Army's values and the warrior spirit. The award recognizes cadets who exemplify the Army Profession, Ethics, and Officership. What made me stand out from other cadets was the sole fact that I remained genuine and humble from beginning to end, I did not allow the circumstances to negate who I am and what I stand for. I am a professional, I honed in that when I was promoted to a Sergeant, and I will exemplify the Army Profession and Ethics.

-CDT Emereum on why he received the USAA Warrior Ethos award and what makes him stand out as a Cadet.

Seeing my family after CST was an incredibly emotional and uplifting experience. After weeks of rigorous training their familiar faces filled me with profound sense of pride and accomplishment.

CDT Jackson on reuniting with his family at CST







“

**My success is rooted in my faith in God, along with the unwavering motivation and support from my family and fellow cadets. Seeing others push themselves to improve inspired me to adopt the same mindset. Looking back, I realize how much I’ve grown over the years, and I owe that growth to the incredible people around me. I am forever grateful to them.**

”

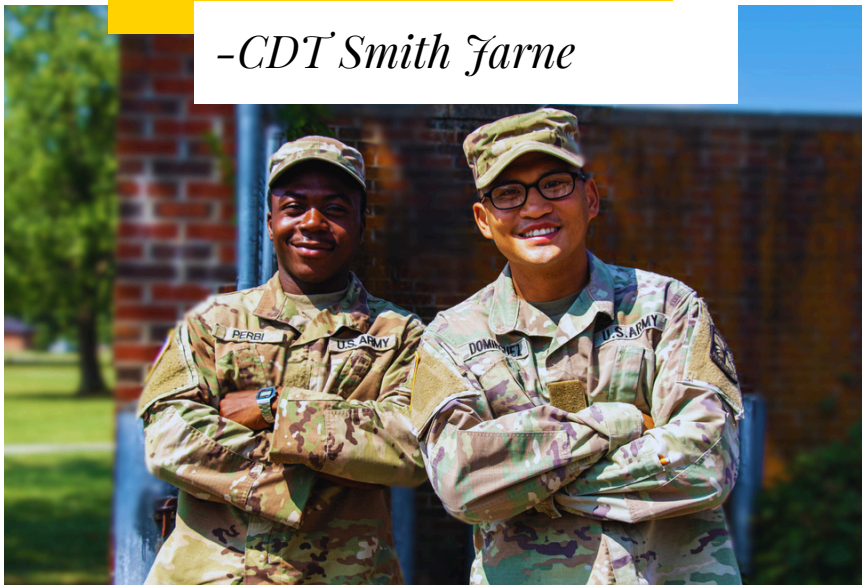
**CDT Davis on where his success stems from**





*All of our hardwork paid off*

*-CDT Smith Jarne*



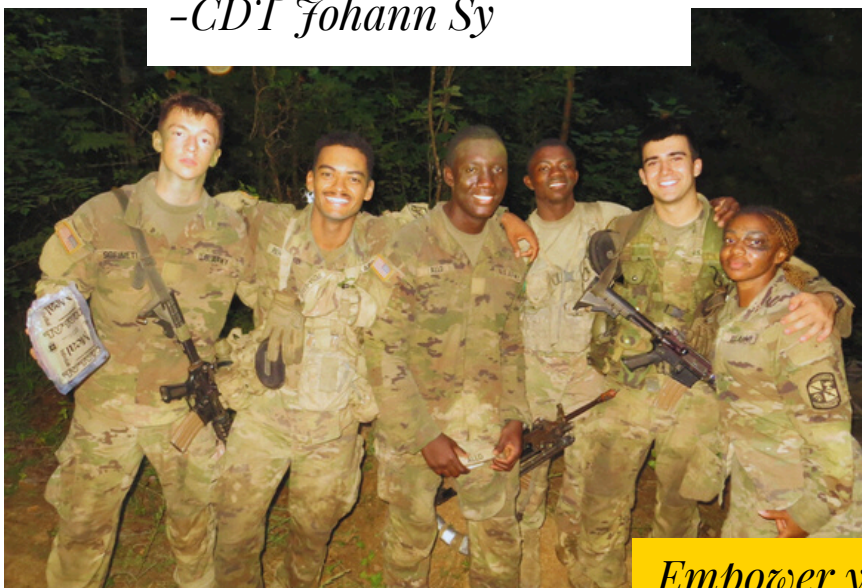
*The only thing we have to fear is fear itself*  
*- CDT Appling, Breanna*





*Survived, thrived, ready to lead!*

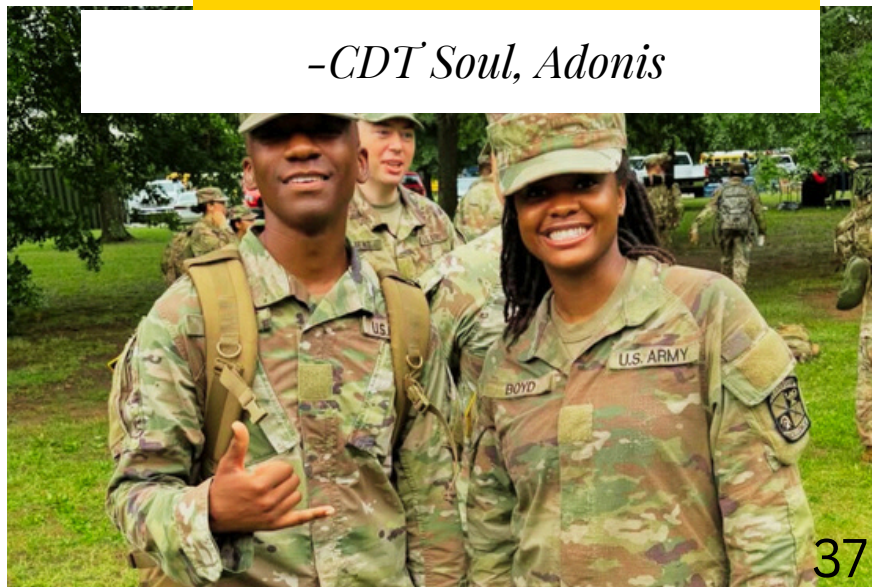
*-CDT Johann Sy*



*Empower your subordinates*



*-CDT Soul, Adonis*







“

Embracing the grind is part of the journey—Basic Training tested my resilience, and contracting into ROTC solidified my commitment. Every challenge is a step closer to earning that gold bar. The work isn't easy, but the mission makes it worth it.

”

-CDT Whittington

## Basic Training and Basic Camp Graduates

“

BCT was a very exciting and nerve-racking time for me. A true challenge of my dedication to succeed despite the many challenges I faced while away from home. It really forced me to come out of my shell and push myself beyond my limits. I found myself growing both mentally and physically stronger as each day passed.

”

-CDT Vinson





Cadet Allo & Cole

## CTLT PARTICIPANT'S

After 35 days of training, CDT Allo and CDT Cole participated in CTLT (Cadet Troop Leader Training) where they were able to be attached to a unit and get hands-on experiences as future lieutenants. Allo completed his CTLT directly following CST. While training at Fort Cavazos, TX he was able to gain experience while shadowing an Infantry officer for 30 days. Cole headed overseas to Germany where he shadowed an Aviation officer and gained an insight on how Aviation units were ran.



CDT Allo pictured at CTLT



CDT Cole pictured at CTLT

“

Excellence is not a singular act,  
but a habit. You are what you  
repeatedly do.

-CDT Allo

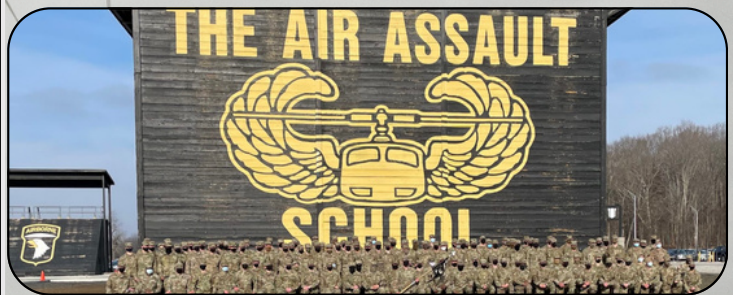
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Cadet Benin

# AIR ASSAULT SCHOOL

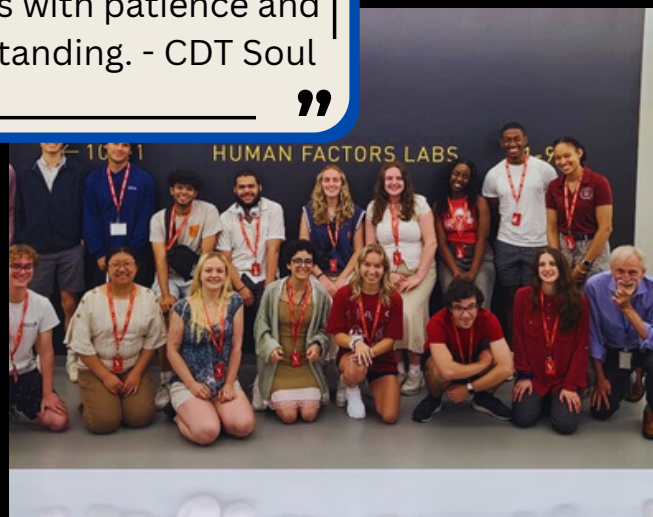
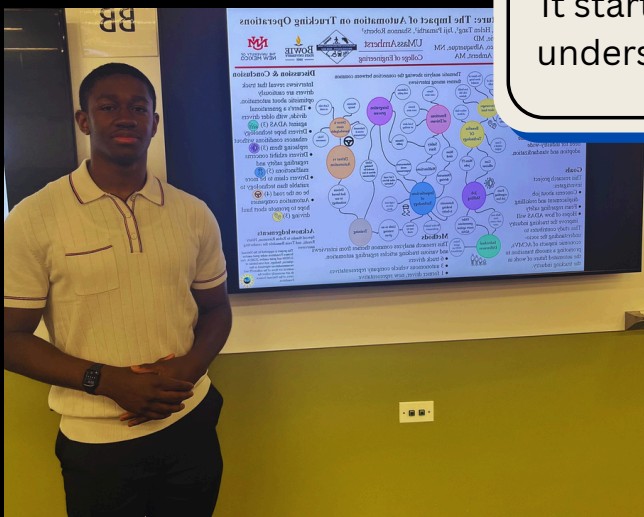
During the summer of 2024, Cadet Benin completed the challenging yet unforgettable Air Assault Course at Fort Moore, Georgia. Phase 1 began intensely, starting with a 2-mile run leading directly into the obstacle course, which tested mental resilience and physical agility. This phase included rigorous classroom instruction on Combat Assault operations, culminating in a written exam that demanded keen focus under pressure. Phase 2 focused on Slingload Operations, where Cadet Benin learned to inspect and rig equipment for helicopter transport while gearing up for a 6-mile ruck march carrying a 35 lbs dry weight, followed by a fast-paced 4-mile run led by the Cadre. According to Benin, phase 3 was the most thrilling: Rappelling. Cadet Benin practiced seat switching, descended from a 60 ft. tower, and had the extraordinary opportunity to rappel from a 90 ft. Black Hawk helicopter. The course concluded with a grueling 12-mile ruck march. Although the experience was demanding, it instilled unparalleled discipline, precision, and resilience in Cadet Benin. Shortly after this rigorous training, Benin set out to complete CST for a fulfilling and booked summer full of training.







“Patience as a leader is key. It starts with patience and understanding. - CDT Soul”



## SUMMER INTERNSHIPS


This summer we had two cadets participate in summer internships. CDT Ako is an eager MS3 who was awarded an internship for Engineering while CDT Soul is an MS4 who spent his summer in an Army cyber internship. CDT Soul immediately headed to his internship upon the completion of his training at CST (Cadet Summer Training). Although this made for a busy summer the experience from these internships were deemed worth it by both Cadets Ako and Soul.





BULLDOG BATTALION

# Training Events



In order to qualify for CST and prepare ROTC cadets to become efficient commissioned officers we focused on various training events. This year we built confidence in swimming, faced our fears of heights, put our leadership skills to the test, became tactically proficient and advanced in our physical fitness. Overall producing competent leaders.







## JFTX

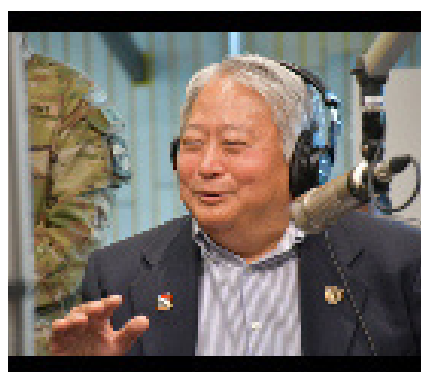
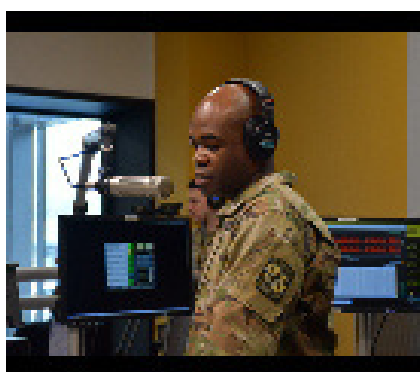
CADETS FROM BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AND UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE JOIN TOGETHER FOR THEIR ANNUAL JOINT FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE (JFTX).

Cadets Unite for Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX) at Gunpowder Installation. In a remarkable display of teamwork and skill-building, cadets from various institutions gathered at Bowie State University this weekend for a Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX). This intensive session, hosted by Bowie State, saw cadets engage in a series of challenging activities designed to hone their military prowess and prepare them for the rigorous Cadet Summer Training (CST) assessment. The weekend's agenda was packed with Strategic Training Exercises (STX) lanes, land navigation courses, and a suite of skill-enhancing drills. These exercises are crucial for cadets as they simulate real-world military operations, requiring them to apply tactical knowledge and leadership skills under pressure. The STX lanes, in particular, provided a dynamic environment for cadets to work collaboratively, making strategic decisions and executing complex maneuvers.

Land navigation was a huge focal point of the JFTX, as cadets traversed challenging terrain to refine their map-reading and compass skills, essential for any aspiring officer. The rigorous course tested their ability to remain composed and effective, even when faced with unfamiliar landscapes.

The JFTX at Bowie State University not only strengthened the cadets' ability to perform under pressure but also fostered camaraderie among participants from different backgrounds. As these future leaders continue their journey towards CST, the skills and connections formed during this exercise will undoubtedly serve as a foundation for their success. The event stands as a testament to the dedication of Bowie State University and its partners in cultivating the next generation of military leaders. This Cadet-led operation was spearheaded by CDT XO, Adonis Soul, and organized by Cadets from all three institutions.





## Leadership Panel

Future leaders at The Bulldog Battalion provided a unique learning opportunity for their fellow cadets and the wider community by hosting a distinguished leadership panel for their W-BSUTV podcast. Cadets Marc Manning and Adonis Soul skillfully moderated an insightful discussion featuring an extraordinary lineup of decorated military veterans.

The podcast episode, which aired [Insert Date/Time if known, otherwise omit], brought together a wealth of experience and perspectives on leadership, resilience, courage, and honor. The panelists included Master Sergeant (Retired) Reinald Pope and Colonel (Retired) Fleming Tal Sullivan, who shared their invaluable insights on navigating challenges and leading effectively. Listeners were also privileged to hear from Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Michael F. Alexander and Colonel (Retired) Rod Azama, both offering seasoned advice drawn from their long and impactful military careers.

Adding a profound dimension to the conversation was Colonel (Retired) Paris Davis, a Medal of Honor recipient, whose reflections on courage and the true meaning of honor undoubtedly left a lasting impression on the audience. Furthermore, Major (Retired) Willie Merkenson, a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, shared compelling experiences and crucial lessons learned from his time in service.

This engaging podcast served as an exceptional platform for listeners to gain a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of leadership directly from those who have exemplified it throughout their careers. Cadets Manning and Soul are to be commended for facilitating such a significant dialogue, providing an invaluable opportunity for learning and inspiration.

The episode is available for listening on [Insert Podcast Platform/Link if known, otherwise omit] and is highly recommended for anyone interested in leadership development and the profound insights of our nation's veterans. The Bulldog Battalion continues to demonstrate its commitment to fostering leadership skills and providing enriching experiences for its cadets. As we concluded the leadership the Professor of military science, Roger Dominique gifted retired colonel Davis with a plaque in honor of medal of honor day.



# ARMY TEN-MILER



The Army Ten-Miler is an annual event that is hosted at multiple locations, Bowie State cadets participated in the ten miler in Washington, D.C. this academic year where they would start in finish at the Pentagon. The race route takes runners through Washington, D.C., crossing the Key Bridge and passing landmarks such as the National Mall before returning via the 14th Street Bridge. The 2024 event followed this general route, with thousands of participants competing in one of the largest military-organized races in the country.



“ —  
 You start with motivation,  
 question your life choices at  
 mile 7 and finish for the free  
 snacks at the end  
 —CDT Ako —”

hardwork, unity &  
 grit.

THE QUALITIES NECESSARY TO COMPETE IN THE ARMY TEN  
 MILER







## Bulldog Battalion Newsletter 2024-2025





PRODUCED BY

Jarne Smith and Johannes Chavez

*Thanks for the* **Memories!**



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