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ROTC ESSAY

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The MS1 classes have been the most interesting I’ve taken in my college career. Learning about the ways the army works is truly fascinating to me. We went over plot point plotting in class. I find it useful to be able to read and navigate a map, it can always come in handy in case you’re stuck in certain situations and environments. I never knew that the meter scale at the top left corner indicates which scale on the protractor to use to know where you’re going.

The first day of class we learned the basic hierarchy of the army. We went over the Army’s Mission. I learned that the National Guard is part of state and federal. I learned how the basics of Drill and Ceremonial march and how to react towards signals that were given. This will help me in the future because I’m planning on going to basic training in the summer. Knowing how to march can make it less stressful for me and reduces time spent on me by a Drill Instructor who could be helping someone who need more instructing. Although, it’s not much to remember but you can mess up if you’re not paying attention. The second day of class we talked about the origin of the salute, proper form, and when to salute. It is not smart to salute when someone has arms full of stuff and you salute; they would have to return a salute. As an Officer, it is important to remember that you salute the rank not the soldier. We listened to the Army song that will play every morning and night. We ended class discussing ranks and differences between being enlisted and an Officer. What I took away from the third day of class was that a map is a 2d representation of the earth’s globe. I learned how to read the map sheet identification and how map aren’t very accurate. I learned that there were three norths that are North, True North, and Grid North. We talked about the color representation of the map that indicates, buildings, man-made-structures, vegetation, etc. It’s important to know that we now use a red-brown light to see the map at night. That’s good to know so I can invest in some headlamp gear. An Officer should have map knowledge as well because they must lead by example. There may be times as an Officer where you’re in the field and get lost or lead your platoon to an LZ. An Officer that can’t read a map will be a burden and cost friendly soldier’s lives. Finally, I took away being able to identify features on the map such as the lines may represent a valley, hill, etc. I consider the lesson on TARP, as one of the most important subjects we talked about so far in class. TARP, or Threat Awareness and Reporting Program, basically in tales that it’s a soldier’s duty to report and guard acts of terrorism and others against national security. Threats can hide in plain site and can access any information in many ways. Protecting our nation, family, civilians, and security is vital for our country’s survival. Officer’s usually have security clearance and will access to intel that others may not. In my case of wanting to be in the Signals, Intelligence, or Cyber branches I will attain classified information that can be used against my country. Based on TARP, I can be a victim targeted by people who want to know what I know, and I should notify authorities.

The skills and lessons of today, will mold and sculpt me to becoming the most capable Officer that I can be. A lot of responsibility is held at the Officer rank, and ROTC will help me mature to past the standards. I hear a lot about how vets and soldiers now make fun of Officers for not knowing anything and being screw ups. I don’t want that stereotype to be my image, so I will learn as much as I can and train my butt off. As of now, what I learned so far puts me ahead of most peers when I go off to basic. I already plan of being in a leadership position to test my ability and attitude to becoming an Army Officer. What I learned in ROTC so far also helps me be more prepared when I go to drill and knowing things relieves stress. I plan on joining the guard and I can already tell ROTC is going to mold me into an outstanding leader in my Army career and business career.