



The Thunderbird Journal

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Cycle #30

Editor: Ms. Snyder

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Welcome to TYA! By: Cadet Dustin Jones

Welcome visitors to the Thunderbird Youth Academy, Cycle 30, Open House. This event is presented to show the spectacular training your cadets have received and to give the cadets a chance to show their loved ones what their new life is like at TYA. We hope you enjoy your visit to our post and have a safe pass.

Why I Came To TYA By: Cadet Maldonado

My name is Martin Dyllon Maldonado. I came to TYA to straighten up my life because I was always in trouble with the law. It was not fun. I also came here to learn discipline and honor. I have a little one on the way and I thought to myself, if I don't straighten up I will end up in jail or dead and I didn't want my kid to be born and me have to watch him grow up from behind bars like my father did me. I also want my kid to respect me and to look up to me as a role model instead of a low life that didn't go anywhere with his life. Another reason I came to TYA was to make my family proud of me and to show them that I can apply myself and that I am a good person. I feel I am definitely on the right track and with the help of TYA I will succeed in life!

What I Plan to Accomplish at TYA By: Cadet Cory Bogle

When I came to TYA I had three goals. My first goal was and is to change my attitude towards people. It was getting really bad. I feel I have changed it some since I have been here. My second goal is to obtain my GED to help me better my life. Finally, my third goal is to become physically fit. I want to better my health and feel better about myself. With a little help from the TYA staff I know I will accomplish these goals.

My Thoughts on TYA By: Cadet Zach Lechluder

So far, for me, TYA has been great with one exception, the group PT. With group PT all cadets must pay for the mistakes of one or a few. I would not like to be the cadet or cadets causing group PT; having all the other cadets staring at me as if they couldn't stand me would make me feel guilty. Other than that I like TYA so far.

We get up early, PT, eat, clean, and go to school. The food here is not too bad, it just gets a little monotonous eating the same basic thing everyday. PT is not too bad until one of the Cadre gets upset, then we do hard PT like jumpers or hopgoods, they are extremely uncomfortable.

When it comes to the things I don't like I can probably almost speak for everyone in the company. I don't like getting up early or the short shower times. It's not fun being away from your family and friends, your clothes, or your phone, but you adapt. Change is good, especially for everyone here. TYA is going to change our lives in one way or another forever. One last thought...cadets be good, don't get on MBA. Trust me when I say Sergeant Hale is good at his job!

A Poem

By: Cadet Jonathan Milford

TYA is very cool and
so is this fantastic school.
Most of us are all homesick but
coming home is coming up quick.
Yes we are bald and yes we are alike but
most of us just want to fight.
Stop the hate and come together and
at the end of the cycle we'll all be brothers.

A Cry for Help
By: Cadet Sara Hicks

A cold, wet tear falls down your cheek. You feel as if you have been abandoned, like no one cares, your heart is broken. Then you start to think, if only you would have listened, if only you would have cared, if only you wouldn't have done the things that got you here.

Please Mom don't leave me, I promise I'll be good. Daddy, please, I need you, I'm not bad, just misunderstood. I'll never drink again and I won't run away, if you take me back home, I promise I'm there to stay.

You just don't understand this pain, this emptiness I feel, but all my scars and hurt inside I know Thunderbird will heal.

I don't know anyone and I'm scared to death, but I know that if I want a future and a life to be proud of, then those 5 1/2 months are just my first test.

So okay, you win, I'll stay. I'll prove to you and myself that despite the dismay, I'll do good in life and I'll have Thunderbird to thank.

"When The Bad Times Got Worse"
By Cadet Perkins

What happened at first
I really can't explain,
but when the bad times got worse
is when I really felt the pain.

It's hard on my conscience
when I know I did something wrong,
and then I tried to hide it
but it hurt me all along.

I'm sorry for the pain I've caused
but soon I'll be a man,
right now I'm just a little boy
searching for his life plan.

What happened at first
I really can't explain,
but when the bad times got worse
is when I really felt the pain.

I'm goin through the hard times
like I never have in the past,
I know I'll get through it
cause time will go by fast

What happened at first
I really can't explain,
but when the bad times get better...
I won't feel anymore pain.

"Friends"
By: Josh Damico

When I decided to come TYA, I thought I wouldn't like anybody. To my surprise I have met some of the best friends ever.

Some of my best friends from 3rd Platoon are Cadet Huckans, and Cadet Smith, K. At first Huckans and I didn't like each other, but now we are really good friends. Cadet Smith, K. acts real big and bad but I can tell he is a real good person.

From 2nd Platoon there are several. First off, there is Cadet Robinson. He is my buff battle buddy. He is from a small town in Oklahoma. Then there is Cadet Seifred. We knew each other about 5 years ago, but we moved and now we are reunited. Now on to Cadet Keeble, the bed rest King - I know I mess with you a lot but it's all for fun.

I want every cadet at TYA to know even though I may not know you, I consider all of you my brothers and sisters. No matter how hard it gets we can make it as long as we have each other. I know I forgot a lot of names and if I forgot yours, I'm sorry. So I would like to thank Cadets Anthony Huckans, Kristofer Smith, Kaden Robinson, Justin Seifred, Kyle Keeble, Jeff Mosley, and Julian Saenz. Thank you all so much. With out you I wouldn't still be here. I would also like to thank all of 2nd Platoon and our Sergeants.

"Till I'm Somebody"
By: Cadet Dusty Dennisson

I get up early in the morning
Leaving everything I loved behind,
What I love is gone
I miss it, I miss home,
But I ain't gonna quit.

I'm strong, I'm goin on
Ain't gonna stop
It may be long, but life's not gone
Gonna continue on
Till I'm somebody.

I got to work hard
I got to give it my all
I got to be strong
To be somebody.

I'm strong, I'm goin on
Ain't gonna stop
It may be long, but life's not gone
Gonna continue on
Till I'm somebody.

We all make mistakes
We all do bad things
But you shouldn't stop living
Just keep goin on
Work hard, do your best
You'll be somebody
Till I'm somebody

Me & TYA
By: Cadet Moody

I came to TYA for many reasons. I came to change my life and become a leader. I came to learn discipline, integrity, and become physically fit.

While I am here I want to obtain my GED and complete the program so that I can join the National Guard.



Guess Who?
By: Cadet Anthony Huckans

Can you guess who goes with which number? Answers on page 4. Good luck!

01. "Roger That"
02. "Good to Go"
03. Big Head
04. Shower Dancer
05. "You Know"
06. Two Words- "Tippy Toes"
07. Smelly
08. Sid the Sloth
09. Mikey
10. Sasquatch
11. O' Canada
12. Out-Standing
13. "Hual!"
14. Smiley Cornflake
15. Shadow
16. Bubba Sparks
17. Theodore
18. House Mouse
19. "Quit Whistling"
20. Spunky
21. Wiggly Monster
22. Mountain Bike
23. "Hairy Up"
24. Bravo
25. Superman

Did You See?

Sgt. Taylor get mad at the pedestrian that tried to run over his platoon.

3rd Platoon execute movements with only three squads at the D&C competition.

Sgt. Lehr's sweet hog!

Mr. Palmer's certificate of Black Belt. (Don't talk in his class!)

ACOC Hayes wearing shorts in ten degree weather.

By: Cadet Cole

CONGRATULATIONS TO "LEARNERS OF THE WEEK"

Each week the education staff chooses one cadet to be learner of the week.

They must be the "most outstanding, courteous, dedicated, and hardworking Cadet in the classroom"

Week 5: Cadet Kaden Robinson

Week 6: Cadet Eric Gilley

Learner of The Week

Learner of The Week

Hanging in There
By: Cadet Kaden Robinson

My first 6 weeks at TYA have been pretty hard on me emotionally. I have always been really close to my family and I have the most amazing girlfriend in the world. I had freedom and a great life which I took for granted. While at TYA I have found out how much my girlfriend, family, friends, and freedom mean to me.

It was hard trying to adjust to this new family of 56 brothers that were in no way the same as I was. I felt lonely, abandoned, and straight up miserable. I missed my family so bad and I just wanted to curl up in a ball and die. I was so homesick, but with the help of Sgt. Kelly and a few others (Cadet Damico) I have made the adjustment to my new life style.

I still have those days when I want to give up and go home to my girlfriend, but on those days I think of a couple of inspiring and motivating stories Sgt. Kelly has told me about his time in the Army. I also think about my Uncle Mark and his stories of being in the Army. I write letters to keep my mind focused and to stay locked on; it helps a lot. My advice to other cadets that just want to throw in the towel and go home is to focus on what motivates them. I have to do it everyday. Here at TYA a cadet must live life day by day, week by week, and month by month. Before we know it June 14th will be here and we will be graduates.

So far TYA has taught me discipline and integrity. I have a no quit, go hard attitude that has helped me physically, mentally, and academically. TYA is helping me prepare for my future in the United States Army. I have realized this is a good place if you are focused and determined to make a positive change. I have been blessed with the ability to stay close to God, to stay focused and determined to graduate. Thanks to all of you that helped me hang in there when I wanted to give up and quit. Let's all hang in there for sixteen more weeks. Have a great pass and try to appreciate life as well as family and friends.

Cadets, I had such a great response when I asked for articles for the newsletter. PLEASE do not be discouraged if your artwork or story you turned in did not make this paper. I simply ran out of room! There will be other newsletters. Have a safe pass!
--Ms. Snyder

Cycle 30 Company Motto

Locked up tight
And ready to train
Our hearts our bodies
And our brains
You better step back
And let us pass
Cause Thunderbird's
Gonna kick your HOORAH!!

Q & A with PSG. Cox, F.
By: Cadet Jesse Cole

Q - What is your point of view on Cycle 30 so far?

A - "Training is going well, as is the progress."

Q - Do you see any site of a potential honor platoon yet?

A - PSG Cox says he has been observing and has spotted three potential honor platoons.

Q - In your eyes, what are some of the major differences between Alpha Co. and Bravo Co.?

A - Alpha Co. the cadets take more responsibility for their own actions. They also get more freedom. Bravo Co. the Sgts. take responsibility for the cadet's actions.

Q - Have you ever felt intimidated by any of the cadets in your history at TYA?

A - "Yes, I've felt most intimidated by the female platoons." (not cycle 30)

Q - What branch of the military did you serve in?

A - "I was in the Marines from 1969-1973. I served two years at Camp Pendleton and two years in Hawaii. I served during the Vietnam era but never did a tour in Vietnam. I served one year in Iraq and 9 month 20 days in Afghanistan. I joined the Marines when I was 17 years old.

Q - How does basic training back then differ from basic training today?

A - Much more intense, hands on, rigorous. "Much more saliva in our faces."

Q - Based on your opinion, what percentage of the company will join a branch of the military?

A - "It's about the same every cycle - 10-20%. I wish more but really that's it."

Thanks for sharing this information with us PSG. Cox!!

My Thoughts on TYA
By: Cadet Severe

I came to TYA just for myself. I wanted to get my GED plus my Grandma said if I graduate she will get me a car! In the beginning those were the reasons. I got here and hated it, but so did just about everyone else. I made myself stay because I told myself I would and that's it. I made a couple of friends and that helped my resolve but really you've got to want it to make it!

After the homesickness subsided on about day 6, we started doing PT and that really got to me at first. I couldn't do very much of it, but listened to the Sgts. and found it did get easier. One of the things I found out fast is that the staff here does know what they're doing and what they're talking about. Even if you don't like one or two of them, it only helps you to listen!

I like being able to meet the different guys from different places, and hate not being able to meet girls! Sometimes I think some of us are too different from each other for example, some just don't know when to stop talking or stop the horse-playing. I lost my temper because someone was being stupid, and I got a negative spot report.

So far, I'm doing okay. This is my first time living away from home and that makes it a little harder. It's kind of scary to have a Sgt. yelling in your face, but hey it gets your attention and makes you learn. I should be in the 11th grade but not have been to school since before the 7th grade, so the education classes are helping me too. We don't have much time to ourselves but I like the organized and structured life I am now living.

Six weeks into the program and I can now say I like it here. It has its ups and downs, but so does life outside of TYA. I hope everyone leaves here having learned the lessons they teach us. However, in the end it is up to each individual because we are what we make ourselves!

Banner Awards

By: Cadet Dustin Jones

The tradition of awarding banners to platoons as a competition has been at Thunderbird since most remember, It's definitely a way of teaching the cadets teamwork within the platoon, and can sometimes be a not so friendly competition. Many rewards, other than bragging rights, comes with each banner won. Platoons can eat first at chow, and be known as the strongest, cleanest, or most spirited group. Each competition is different and has it's own simple or complicated system. Other competitions come from common sense, or maybe something as simple as one's Mom teaching them how to clean a room really good.

The competition of Drill & Ceremony is the one competition that takes complete teamwork, no exceptions! If one member decides to slack off during practice or in the competition it really shows. The competition is most often held in the DFAC parking lot, judged by SS Tate.

The first D&C competition this cycle was won by first platoon. Lets not get into detail on the scores and just say better luck next time males.

There are eighteen different standards used to judge the D&C competition. The main guidelines are facing movements, open and close ranks, present and order arms, dress right dress, and of course the marching. Drill and Ceremony helps the cadets with teamwork, while teaching the cadets to respect their countries military history.

The banner awarded to the fittest platoon is the PCPF banner or the President's Challenge for Physical Fitness. Outside of Thunderbird some of us thought we were the most fit teens around but the PCPF test makes one realize they are not in great shape. The PCPF consists of five different events. The competition has three different possible scores per cadet: participation, national award, and presidential award. With each level achieved, the points get higher. The platoon's scores are averaged and the platoon with the highest average wins the PCPF banner.

Although cleaning your room and making your bed is usually best done by females, third platoon put up quite a fight for the Billet's Maintenance banner. At home our rooms might be deemed a hazardous area. Here at TYA it's hard to find a bunk not made or a towel not folded to precisely six inches. However, in case you need to find one, SS Kamm is your man! He searches barracks high and low to find the smallest water spot on the back of a toilet handle. He will gig the platoon or give them a negative mark for many things, but most often it is for loose racks or shoe displays. Everyday the platoon with the least amount of gigs is awarded the privilege of eating first.

Merit level is of extreme importance to cadets. Merit level almost runs your life. It decides what fun or not so fun activities cadets get to participate in. This brings me to the Spirit banner. To win the Spirit banner the majority of a platoon has to be above a merit level five. The merit level of each platoon is averaged and the platoon with the highest average receives the Spirit banner for their guidon. By the way, it is almost impossible to receive the Spirit banner with more than five cadets on MBA.

Last but definitely not least is the Academic banner. This banner is awarded to the platoon that has the learner of the week. Learner of the week is the cadet that shows great discipline and a good work ethic in the classroom. The first LOW for Cycle 30 was Cadet Robinson, K of 2nd platoon.

Every platoon wants to be known as Honor Platoon. To achieve this honor, a platoon must hold the four main banners for two weeks straight. Winning this banner is not about showing the other platoons that your platoon is better, it is about building teamwork, and having a sense of dignity within the platoon. Thunderbird will keep the tradition of banners going strong for cycles to come.

Ms. Snyder - Just One of Many
By: Cadet Julian Saenz

Ms. Snyder is a teacher that loves being herself; at least most of the time. A teacher who had a dream of doing what she does today, but why? She thinks we are all interesting in our own ways and likes the mixture of personalities she gets each cycle in her classroom. While she likes teaching at-risk kids, she loves to hear their stories. Interesting huh, but what else does she do besides teach us how to write essays and use proper grammar? Do you really know?

Ms. Snyder is the editor of the Thunderbird Journal which let's us know what's going on around post and keeps us informed about life at TYA. Each cycle with the help of one or two cadets she puts together the classbook/yearbook that cadets receive at the end of the cycle. She also takes most of the pictures that we will see in the classbook and she posts them on the TYA website so that our parents can maybe catch a glimpse of us doing what we do here.

Ms. Snyder does a lot of things for TYA. She only does them because she loves her job and her cadets at TYA.

Cadets when you go home check out the website for TYA and see your photos!!

www.ngycp.org/ok

Jokes

By: Cadet Rhinehart

Joke of the Day

What do you call a dog wrapped in a sweater, playing baseball in the middle of summer?

A Hotdog

Joke of the Week

What do you call Rhinehart when is running and can't be stopped?

A Rhino

Joke of the Month

What do you get when you get mad?

You get a little Moody

American Soldier
By: Cadet Wood, R

I lay here in the mud
Bullet in my leg
Fighting for my country
Until I take my last breath
If I do not make it back
Do not cry for me
I died as a hero
From sea to shining sea.

Answers to Guess Who?

1. Sgt. Daniels, 2. Sgt. Ibanez, 3. Cadet Damico, 4. Cadet Smith, K, 5. Summer from NA, 6. Sgt. Cheary, 7. Cadet Jones, P, 8. Cadet O'Donnell, 9. Cadet Hedgpeth, 10. Cadet Swyden, 11. Cadet Cole, J, 12. Sgt. Hale, 13. Sgt. Cox, 14. Sgt. Sanders, 15. Cadet Hopgood, C. 16. Cadet Roth, 17. Cadet Milford, 18. Cadet Callaway, 19. Sgt. Pierce, 20. Graduate Simmons, 21. Cadet Penton, 22. Cadet Grogan, 23. Sgt. Taylor, 24. Cadet Goad, 25. Sgt. Barnes



Cadets
If you Try You Achieve
Test Your Authority
(you get PT)
Test Your Ability
Test Your Agility
Tough Young Americans

By: Cadet Callaway