



Evolving With Change

Cory Brewer, Tolleson Union High School

Change is an inescapable facet of life. It provides an opportunity for people to grow and evolve as a leader and a follower and just as a person. My JROTC experience has been very out of the norm, I have had a total of 5 instructors during my four years in the program and one complete year online due to COVID-19. Thus change and adaptability have become an essential part of being a successful cadet within the program.

When I first entered high school I was a very rigid and structured person, I did the same thing every single day and never broke the routine. This routine consisted of school, tutoring, sports, then homework every single weekday. My routine fit well with the activities MCJROTC offered like the marksmanship team. I found great success within the MCJROTC classroom becoming a squad leader and dedicating hours to improving the inspection scores and knowledge of my squadmates. This routine was completely upturned at the end of my Freshman year when the extra week of spring break turned into an entire year of school online. However, I did not let this disruptive event disturb my commitment to academic success and MCJROTC. I adapted my schedule to being at home constantly. I worked out at home instead of going to the gym, I studied by myself and learned to answer my own questions instead of relying solely on my teachers. However, one thing I did not change was my commitment to MCJROTC, I continued to study my knowledge and even joined the Academic Team to maintain the level of knowledge I had. I also took this time to plan out my goals for the future like attending

West Point and what the steps I would need to take to ensure acceptance there.

In my junior year, we started with our second instructor, he was unlike our old instructor following a strict organizational system and bringing in fresh new ideas. I was lucky enough to be chosen to be the Company Executive Officer, which afforded me many opportunities for growth for which I am forever grateful. Halfway through the year our instructor unexpectedly had to leave and he was replaced by a substitute teacher, Mr. Q for one quarter. He presented many new challenges and was consistently butting heads with the preset leadership. However, we learned how to effectively work with him and overcome the challenges, after all, it was necessary for the success of the program. Now in my senior year as Company Commander, I am constantly dealing with complex issues and adaptability is a must. The ability to be flexible and adapt to rising challenges has been constantly tested with the volunteering activities I have set up for my Company. Volunteering plans and plans in general must be able to adapt for last second cancellations or when the show time changes. Being able to direct over 100 cadets to carry out these tasks prior to being in MCJROTC, which taught me leadership skills and the importance of delegating authority, would have absolutely terrified me.

MCJROTC has prepared me to deal with unforeseen challenges and to be able to adapt in the face of them. Sports, for example wrestling, is one such example. MCJROTC has ingrained into me the abil-

ity to be a leader and as prior mentioned adapt when necessary. This year was my first year of wrestling. However, I have had over 7 years of grappling experience so I know a decent amount, and I was chosen by my coach to be captain of the boys' varsity team. This means leading practices and warm-ups and being willing to step up when no other captains are there. I have learned the trait of initiative from JROTC which has been a key factor in my success in sports. Initiative has also been essential in my college applications for schools like West Point and the University of Arizona. For West Point I trained a ton on my own time to ensure peak CFA (Cadet Fitness Scores) and applied for both schools early to ensure ample time for acceptance. Additionally, I have had to work around their

schedules and be prepared to jump onto opportunities at a moment's notice. The challenges I have faced in MCJROTC have helped prepare me for future obstacles I will face in life, and ensured that I will adapt, overcome and lead no matter what the circumstances are. I believe that my experiences in JROTC have given me an advantage both in college and in life in both my grit and my adaptability.

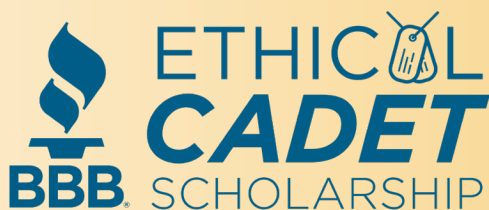
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