

"LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT THE WAY"

SPRING 2020

**BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY ARMY ROTC**

# BULLDOGS

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# NOTES FROM THE PMS

By Lieutenant Colonel Wesley N. Knight

Academic Year 2019-2020 will go down in history as one of the most unique and challenging times due to our Nation's ongoing fights against COVID-19 and racial discrimination. While these challenges will continue to affect us for the foreseeable future, I can say with conviction that we have fantastic leaders of character within the Bowie State University Army ROTC program. These cadets, to include our recent commissionees, continue to grow and develop, readying themselves to continue leading positive change within our Country and Army AND will lead America's Sons and Daughters to win our Nation's wars. Below are just a few of the highlights this awesome group of men and women have accomplished over the past academic year:

- During the Ranger Challenge Competition at Fort Pickett, VA from 18-19 October, our phenomenal Ranger Challenge Team finished the best in recent memory, 15 out of 48 teams. By finishing 15th, the program was the #1 HBCU and the #1 team in Maryland!
- The Bulldogs finished first semester strong with a field training exercise at Quantico Marine Corps Base from November 15-17. Our seniors planned, resourced, and executed day and night land navigation, basic rifle marksmanship, and squad tactics lanes for over 50 cadets. This training served as the culminating training for countless Military Science classes, labs, and Guest Speaker engagements. Over three days, the cadets practiced what they had learned and grew personally, professionally, and as a team.
- To finish out the semester, the BSU program was honored to host the 2LT Richard Collins, III Leadership with Honor Scholarship Ceremony on December 5th. With the ROTC faculty and cadre's assistance, Bowie State University's President, Dr. Aminta Breaux, recognized 38 Cadets who received the scholarship. The ceremony was especially poignant to the Cadets with the attendance of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Collins.
- The last major event we were able to accomplish as a team (in-person) was the first Bowie State University Army ROTC Leaders' Forum on February 20th. Six BSU ROTC Alumni conducted a leadership panel for the program, sharing personal and professional insights from their ROTC, BSU, Army, and Civilian lives. A special thanks to COL Donald Robinson, COL (R) Robert Myles, COL (R) Edward DeShields, COL (R) Carla Henson, LTC (R) Kevin Stevenson, and 1LT Denzel Prince for serving as our panel and sharing some incredible insights to our Cadets, Cadre, and Staff.
- Finally, the ROTC program was honored to commission 17 fantastic leaders this year (with one more in August), marking the largest commissioning class in the program's history!
  - December 2019: 2LT Oluwaleke Ajenifuja (EN), 2LT Jackie Berry (MI), 2LT Cleveland Braswell (FI)

- May 2020: 2LT Brittney Andrews (MI), 2LT Laura Bennisan (AG), 2LT Jacob Davis (MS), 2LT Tanaysha Echols (QM), 2LT Jesse Harr (CY), 2LT Dan Hernandez (FA), 2LT Adrian Little (CY), 2LT Beiling Liu (AG), 2LT Omega Marks (CY), 2LT Charles Miles (IN), 2LT Toluwalope Olaitan (IN), 2LT Ikpefua Olumese (SC), 2LT Leah Spivery (SC), 2LT Joshua Young (CM).
- August 2020: 2LT Victor Ramos

If any of our BSU ROTC Alumni would like to continue to support the program through mentorship, support to training events, serve as a guest speaker, or donate funds to the program, please reach out to Mrs. Robinson or myself. You are legacy of the BSU ROTC program, and the program will only grow stronger with your help and involvement! Thank you and I wish you all health and safety as we hit the summer months and continue training leaders in the Bulldog Battalion!

# BSU ROTC Moments







# Leonidas S. James Physical Education Complex



# Here For Reasons



## 2LT TANAYSHA LASHUNAE ECHOLS, ADVANCED CAMP GRADUATE



If someone told me 9 years ago that I would be roommates with a worm and a raccoon, I would laugh hysterically. I would go on and on about how much of a Soldier I was NOT and go on with my merry life. Yet, in Fort Knox at Cadet Summer Training (CST), I was shaking worms out of my sleeping bag and fighting raccoons over Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MRE) snacks. For three out of five weeks, I watched the sky cry over me then punish me with heat as I conducted realistic tactical missions. If I had to do it all over again, I would. Not in a heartbeat, but I would for three reasons; **spirituality, humility, and confidence.**

I grew closer to God while I was there. In one cold, stormy night I sat up in my hooch contemplating why I wanted to become an Officer. My hooch had fallen in, the rain beat my face, and my gear was rolling down the hill. I could either give up mentally or rely on God's strength to push through. Suddenly, I had the idea to utilize my MRE heaters to warm my hands and feet. I reset my hooch, pulled out my MRE heaters then changed my thoughts. I had only slept 2 hours that night, but I knew from then on God had my back..

While in CST, if there are any lessons to be learned it is humility. Fort Knox was unforgiving with the weather and I was constantly in positions to be one with wildlife. I laid in mud for hours pulling security while my battle buddies planned a mission. I listened to people 6 to 7 years my junior as if they were a Colonel. Then finally, I welcome spiders as part of God's natural ecosystem. There was no better day than July 4, 2019 as I wagon wheeled across the field in formation. I had accomplished the hardest training in my life successfully. I was not number one nor 37, but I was done. The sense of pride that I gained from this training has made me a better Woman, Soldier, and Leader. I carry myself in a different manner. CST was necessary for me to become the Officer I am today.

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★ By 2LT CLEVELAND BRASWELL, ADVANCEND CAMP GRADUATE



*"If you have the knowledge, let others light their candles in it."*

My time here at Bowie State University (BSU) has been amazing. BSU has provided me with several life-changing experiences that have made me a better man, leader, Soldier, husband, father, and son. After serving on several deployments and gaining experience in the Army, I wanted to have more influence on a bigger scale within the U.S. Army. I joined BSU Army ROTC because I was able to accomplish several of my lifelong goals, become an Army officer, attend my hometown's Historically Black College University (HBCU) while making an impact on my country and community. I have fulfilled these goals. In the process, I was challenged both mentally and physically, however, thanks to a strong support system at home and the help of my Bulldog family, I was able to push through adversity.



An American Journalist by the name of Margaret Fuller once said: "If you have the knowledge, let others light their candles in it." With all the knowledge and experience I have gained during my stint here and in the United States Army, astronauts in space will be able to see our candles. I'm excited about what the future has in store for myself and this battalion. Here at Bowie State University, we stand true to our motto. "We herd sheep, we drive cattle, we lead people. Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way!"





# Tough Times Don't Last

## 2LT BEILING LIU, ADVANCED CAMP GRADUATE

The advanced camp offered me the opportunity to expose myself to the diversity in the Army. The diversity of different religions, ethnic backgrounds, genders and personalities. The advanced camp was a unique experience, it not only allowed me to learn and grow as an effective leader, but it also taught me how to be a follower and teammate. Here are few leadership tips that I would like to share with my fellow cadets based on what I have learned:

**1. Tough times DON'T last, but tough people DO.** This is the phrase that I used to encourage myself with and my platoon whenever we had a hard time at camp. Whether it is a 12 mile ruck march, CBRN range, or the field training exercises; tough times will eventually pass by, as long as we keep pushing and moving towards our goal.

**2. Always fly the airplane.** This is one of the leadership tips that Cadet Command Commanding General, Major General Evans shared with us at the cadet brief. Always fly the airplane means to prioritize your tasks and focus on your priority. As an effective leader, you would have a ton of tasks and to-dos on your list waiting for your decision and planning, do not get overwhelmed by the workload, know your mission set and focus on your priorities.

**3. Be a good teammate.** No man is an island. No one could make it all by himself. Be a great teammate to your subordinates, help them out, share your knowledge, and stay motivated and engaged during hardship. The Army is never about individuality, it is about one team, one fight, and one goal.





# PERSONAL COURAGE

By ZLT TOLUWALOPE OLAITAN, ADVANCED CAMP GRADUATE

It has been a heck of a journey being in BSU Army ROTC. This program made me grow, not only physically but mentally as well. Because of ROTC, my confidence in myself has grown. Also, my confidence in being able to lead others. In the beginning, when I first joined this program, I had doubts about whether this is what I truly wanted to do. However, as time went by, due to the guidance of my peers, the accommodation of the amazing BSU Army ROTC staff, and recently my completion of Advanced Camp I can truly say that I am ready to commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. I have to say that my most memorable moment of Advanced Camp would be the Rappel and Confidence Course. For me, it was the first time to be at such a height without being in a mechanical structure or support; I had never done any rock climbing or anything similar before camp. It's funny because every time I would go to an amusement park and my friends would see a roller coaster to go on, I would always pretend to be gung-ho with them ready to take on the challenge. However, on the inside, I would be scared 85% of the time. The rappel/confidence course really challenged me to take on the fear of heights, and now I can honestly say that I can take on any roller coaster no matter how high it goes.



# CCWP: Dynamic Victory19



By 2LT JOSHUA YOUNG, ADVANCED CAMP GRADUATE

Upon completing the advanced camp, I had the opportunity to go to Germany for my Cadet Coalition War-fighter Program (CCWP) and Cultural Understanding and Learning Program (CU&LP) mission. Originally my mission was to travel to Indonesia, but it got changed to a Joint Mission Readiness Center (JMRC) mission called "Dynamic Victory19". When arriving at Grafenwöhr, Germany, my platoon spent 6-7 days developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and conducting classroom instruction while we awaited the RMAS company. When the RMAS Company arrived, we started our training and conducted individual and collective training, close-quarter battles, STX lanes, and live-fire exercises up to the platoon level. Upon completion of this phase, all participants and cadre moved to Hohenfels, Germany for the final exercise. We were flown in by CH-47 directly into the training area to begin operations. The last eight days were spent at the Joint Military Readiness Center (JMRC). We ran a full spectrum of operations consisting of reconnaissance, offense, defense, peacekeeping, and reacting to a Chemical, Biological, Radio-logical, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) environment. All the operations were conducted at the company level with exception to the last objective, which was a Battalion mission consisting of all cadets and cadre.

My experience with CCWP "Dynamic Victory19" was amazing, being the first time flying overseas, and interacting with the British cadets is an experience that I will never forget. I made countless friends and gained so much knowledge of military tactics. This exercise got me out of my comfort zone with a lot of things that I found questionable about military tactics and how to conduct them. I feel more confident in teaching my peers and giving pointers on military tactics, I came home a more confident leader than I did coming into Germany.



# 2019 ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Presented by BSU Student Veteran Association



**PICTURED FROM LEFT: MONTFORD POINT MARINES, MRS. SMITH, TUSKEGEE AIRMANS -- "RED TAILS", SVA PRESIDENT 2LT TANAYSHA LASHUNAE ECHOLS**

On the veterans day celebration, Student Veterans Association (SVA) hosted the annual veterans day celebration at Bowie State University to celebrate and honor those who serve and who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. SVA had invited and honored Montford Point Marines and Tuskegee Airman -- "Red Tails" for their unwavering service and sacrifices. During the leadership discussion panel, Montfort Point Marines and Tuskegee Airmans reflected on WWII, Vietnam War and the hardship they had endured during the Jim Crow era.



**GUEST SPEAKER: CSM PERLISA D. WILSON**

Command Sergeant Major Perlisa D. Wilson serves as a Senior Enlisted Leader of the Maryland National Guard. She previously served as the primary advisor to the DCSPER G1 advising on all personnel matters affecting Soldiers. Her military career spans over 28 years of service. She enlisted into the Maryland Army National Guard's 229th Supply and Transportation Battalion in May 1990. She completed Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee, Virginia as an Automated Logistical Specialist and was assigned to Bravo Company Detachment, Bravo Company, and Headquarters Company of the 229th Main Support Battalion in Reisterstown, Maryland.

During CSM Wilson's speech, she shared her perspective on what leadership means in the military. She provided words of encouragement to all of the cadets and young leaders in the Army, and reminded them never to forget where they came from.



# BRIDGING THE GAP

GREEN TO GOLD SPOTLIGHT

By CDT JOYNEIDA LASHAUNDA BROWN, MSIII

**"When much is given, greater is expected in return."**

CDT Brown

**Today**, our society is filled with young people who are lost even after achieving various levels of education. I joined the Army after graduating from college and it has been the most rewarding decision I decided to embark on. I know there is more I can do to give back as I was reared to believe that "When much is given. Greater is expected in return." Being apart of that 1% of the population has always been a tradition in my family. From my grandfather to my parents, siblings, uncles, and cousins. I've always been accustomed to being surrounded by a Military family. My patriotic journey began on February 22nd, 2016.

As I reflect back on my journey and all the challenges I've encountered, I can truly understand why being an Army soldier is such a fulfilling accomplishment. During Advanced Individual Training (AIT) I held the position of Platoon Sergeant. Then earning the title as the Distinguished Honor Graduate of my Advanced Individual Training class. I did not understand the importance of my achievements. After becoming a Non-Commissioned Officer I then recognized the significance of my aforementioned accomplishments. Non-Commissioned Officers are the "Backbone" of the Army and I've truly enjoyed my time being an NCO. Building relationships and having cohesion with your soldiers help accomplish missions successfully and effectively.

With constant encouragement and support from my command team, I realized pursuing the Green to Gold program was the best option for me to transition into the Army Officer Corps. I am honored to be apart of Bowie State University's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. This phenomenal program will afford me the opportunity to enhance my military skills, develop additional leadership techniques, and learn key attributes that will shape me to become a more effective **leader.**



I do not recall the times I have been afraid to make decisions. Do I say I have made the best decisions always? No! I have had a share of bad decisions and took lessons from them. On the other hand, I have had to enjoy some of the decisions I have made, and the second and the third-order effects of such. I decided to enlist in the Army almost 10 years ago and that decision I considered to be the best decision of my life. Initially, I knew my contract was going to be only four years and set myself back to civilian life. So far it has become almost decade's old decision to continue serving. I am proud of my decision. The second and third-order effects of my decision have been fruitful and fulfilling.



# BRIDGING THE GAP

GREEN TO GOLD SPOTLIGHT

By CDT WILLY CHERUIYOT, MSIII

The journey to this day has been wonderful, full of experiences and lessons learned. I got an opportunity to "switch-over" and it was a bitter-sweet. Part of me did not want to leave my enlisted side. Part of me wanted to be part officer corps and be proud to have "tasted" both sides. It is part of my pride to serve and I have no regrets at all. But in essence, I am grateful for my mentors who molded and guided me through.



As a non-commissioned officer, I held several direct leadership positions for the 106th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment responsible for training, health, welfare, administration, and professional development of 35 Soldiers, seven NCOs, and ten Korean Soldiers. I also assisted the commander in planning, coordinating, and executing all mission support activities, to include management of finance sections comprised of Reserve Pay and Soldier Readiness Processing.

Preceding my recent assignment was an assignment in Joint Environment in the Capital Region, where I worked with service members from all military branches, government civilians, and contractors providing financial and logistical supports worldwide. I led a section of four Soldiers, three Civilians, and three contractors processing contracts payments worth over 25 million dollars yearly. My section was recognized and awarded for two consecutive years for passing Army Audit.

# BRIDGING THE GAP

GREEN TO GOLD SPOTLIGHT

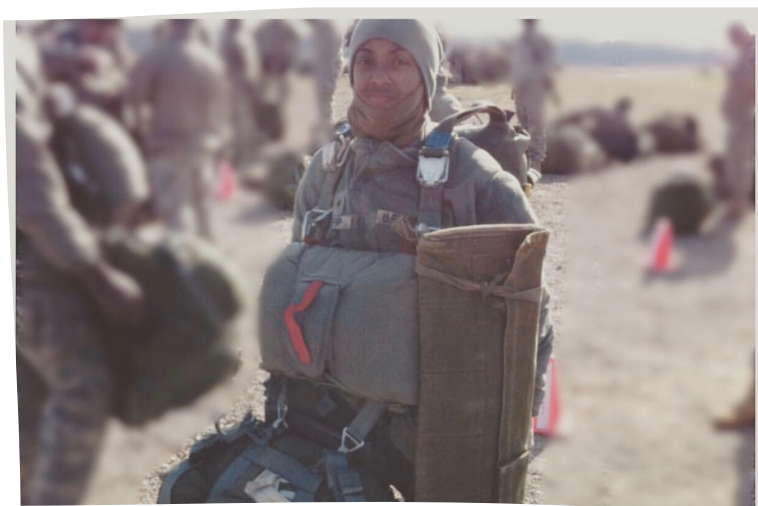
By CDT RANELLE MONIQUE SKIPPER, MSIII

" I have not taken any opportunity for granted and always strive to exceed the standard on a given task or assignment.."



My **military career** has molded me into a resilient leader among my peers and taught me to make decisions even when it's not a popular one, but what is best for the mission. I have not taken any opportunity for granted and always strive to exceed the standard on a given task or assignment. I have had my share of obstacles, but I always proved to myself that I am more than capable of conquering them. Most of my career I was the only female in the office, training environment, military MOS specific schools, and deployments, but that did not stop me from stepping up to the plate and meet the same standards as my male counterparts.

Over my career, I have come across great leadership that provided outstanding mentorship. One of my favorite mentors is retiree COL Dean S. Newman who deployed as a Captain assigned to 5th SFG(A) when he and his team (ODA 534) were the 1st Special Forces team deployed to Afghanistan known as the 12 horse soldiers. He taught me that no matter what rank you are, you can provide input that could potentially make a tremendous difference to a mission. As a Cadet, I am able to provide the same influence he has on me to my peers (MSIs, MSIIIs, and MSIIIs). When in leadership roles I am able to show my peers the seriousness of what the positions consist of and how to utilize the Chain of Command properly. I enjoy helping those who seek help and being **prior service** I feel like it is my duty to help those in need.



# OPPORTUNITY IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED

BY CDT LATEEFAT AFOLABI, MSIII

During the summer of 2019, I had the opportunity of going to Advanced camp as OPFOR (Operation Force) in Fort Knox, KY for a month. I was able to get a different perspective of advanced camp that I could use to my advantage. Being in the position of OPFOR, I was able to get an understanding of what to do and what not to do when conducting missions and I was able to get tips and advice from both cadre and MS3 cadets.

Before the MS3s conducted their missions, I was able to listen to the PLs give out OPORDs to their platoon; and after the mission, I sat in on AARs. While I was there, I had three days in the field, and two days in the barracks repeatedly until the last week. Our days in the field consisted of being staged at a specific location and waiting for the MS3s to “kill” us; and at night, we had classes on important things from the ranger handbook that we will need to know for advanced camp. The two “off” days were additional training days that we went to the range to improve marksmanship, we did the land nav course, and we also did an obstacle course. At the moment, I hated the fact that I still had to wake up early on my off days but, at the end of it all, I am glad I had the opportunity to get more training. This experience was truly different for me and it helped me to best prepare myself for attending advanced camp next summer.

After my time in Fort Knox, I went to Germany for an internship with Public Health Command Europe (PHCE) for a month. I spent most of my time in the Veterinary clinic with veterinarians, military working dogs (MWDs), and food inspectors which consisted of both officers and NCOs in the Army. During my time there, I got the opportunity to sit in on meetings with important individuals like the Sergeant Major of PHCE and I got to go on food inspections in the commissaries. While at the clinic, I observed the neutering of a cat and dog; and I also assisted on a splenectomy. During the weekends, I went on day trips and participated in a fun day event where all the units under PHCE came together to have fun. I learned new information about the veterinary corps that I never knew, and I am glad I got this opportunity. One important thing I got from my time in Germany is that, behind every successful officer is a more experienced NCO who provides support and advice to the officers and without the NCOs, most officers will not succeed in their units.





# ON A MISSION

CDT ASHLEE TUNSTALL, MSIII

**"Never give up on what you want in life because anything is possible if you want it bad enough."**



My Journey with the military started when I was a young girl involved in the Civil Air Patrol as well as the Sea Cadets. I remember attending summer camps with these programs but not knowing what ROTC meant. As I reached the eighth grade, I knew I wanted to join the Armed Forces once I graduated high school. As a freshman in college, I began my military career by enrolling in Army ROTC.

When I was a MSI cadet, BSU Army ROTC sent me to Ft. Knox, Kentucky to complete basic camp. I made it through my first semester as an MSIII but was not in the best physical fitness shape for me to move forward. I took some time to think about why I wanted to be in the Army, why I was involved in ROTC and if I wanted it bad enough. After one month, I enlisted in the reserves as PFC Tunstall, Ashlee as an 88N - Transportation Management Coordinator.

After my enlistment, I was shipped to Ft. Jackson, South Carolina where I completed Basic Training followed by completing my Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Ft. Lee, Virginia. I graduated from AIT at the top of my class. I was awarded on the Commandants list and I received the Class Leader Award. Once I graduated from AIT, I returned to BSU Army ROTC and got contracted as an Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cadet.

It has been a great journey for me and I do not regret one bit of it. My journey has taught me **patience, discipline,** knowing that everything happens for a reason, how to self assess and make changes, learning how to follow before you can lead and what it means to be apart of the U.S. Military Armed Forces. It is; serving, honoring, protecting and respecting the ones before you, being apart of something greater than yourself and leading by a positive example for the ones who come after me.

Throughout all of my challenges, I am thankful for my Lord and Savior, my family, friends, recruiters, BSU Army ROTC (Cadre & Battles), battle buddies, Reserve Unit, drill sergeants, instructors, NCO'S, Commissioned Officers, mentors and everyone I have ever crossed paths with, involving my military career. They have molded me into the person I am and the leader I am developing into.



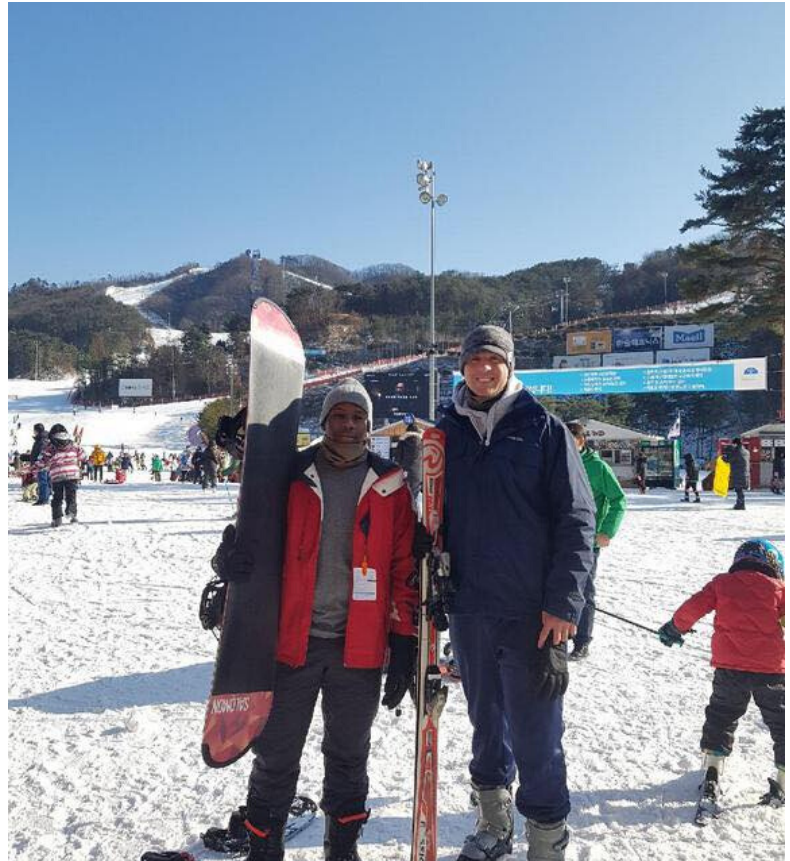
# CADRE HIGHLIGHT



## CPT Daniel Harvey

I grew up in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and lived there for about 8 years. I come from a military family and I am the oldest of two. I went to and was commissioned from Missouri State University ROTC where I branched Armor. In my free time, I enjoy outdoor recreational activities; lifting weights, running, snowboarding, and boating. To be a Platoon Leader is to be a leader of the great men and women that selflessly serve this great nation. The opportunity to lead and mentor Soldiers that inevitably become your second family is the greatest honor one can bestow on a combat arm's officer. The bond that a Platoon Leader has with his or her platoon is a bond that cannot be replicated and a feeling that will forever go unmatched. Additionally, there is no other leadership opportunity in the Army that allows an Officer to have as much of a direct influence to positively impact the lives of young soldiers like a Platoon Leader does. To this day, I still keep in touch with those that once served under me.

During a rigorous training cycle on a hot, summer day in Fort Hood, TX, my tank platoon was tasked along with a sister infantry company to act as the opposing force (OPFOR) for a national training exercise to field test new mounted platforms that the United States Army was interested in purchasing. In this training exercise my platoon was intentionally outnumbered, 4:1 tanks and 5:1 Bradley Fighting Vehicles (BFVs) by an adversary known as BLUFOR to ensure fielded test outcomes would yield optimal results. No one ever expects for the OPFOR to win any battles, nonetheless the whole training exercise, but after seven grueling days of force on force training, the OPFOR (my tank platoon) came out on top. Our biggest highlight was one battle where my tank platoon single-handedly destroyed nine tanks, twelve BFVs and overran the enemy's tactical operations center (TOC), all in a matter of thirty minutes.

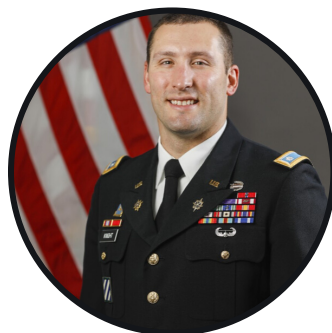


**Why are you excited to be at Bowie State?**

**"I'm excited for the opportunity to mentor, lead and provide professional development to leaders of tomorrow."**

# CADRE AND STAFF

Every great ROTC program is supported by cadre and staff who show genuine care and concern for the development and well being of our future leaders. Here at BSU, we pride ourselves on doing everything in our power to get the job done.



**LTC Wesley Knight,  
Professor of Military Science**



**MSG Felix Briones,  
Senior Military Science Instructor**



**CPT Tyler Owens,  
Assistant Professor of Military Science**



**CPT Daniel Harvey,  
Assistant Professor of Military Science**



**LTC (R) Montrose L. Robinson,  
Recruitment Operations Officer**



**SFC (R) Mr. David Nimmers,  
Human Resource Assistant**



**MAJ (R) Doris Green,  
Senior Military Instructor**



**SFC (R) Mr. Shawn L. Stewart,  
Logistics Technician**



**Mr. Joe Britto  
Administrative Assistant**

# Contact Us



Bowie State University  
Department of Military Science  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts Center  
14000 Jericho Park Rd  
Bowie, MD 20715  
Phone: 301-860-3560  
[www.bowiestate.edu/rotc](http://www.bowiestate.edu/rotc)

BowieStateUniveristyArmyROTC



**LEAD,  
FOLLOW,  
OR GET OUT  
THE WAY!**