



SMDC / ARSTRAT



Providence College Army ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

Providence College, RI

13 May 2011

LTG Formica Remarks (as delivered)

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Thank you for the opportunity to come here today, and to participate in this important event.

To Mr. Fisher, and to your classmates and fellow servicemen, thank you for your service and congratulations on your honorary degree. Thanks for being here today.

To the faculty, staff, supporters of Providence College, and the other five colleges and universities – thanks for your support to the ROTC program and to the cadets who are developed in this program.

To the Families – thanks for sharing your Lieutenants with your nation and with the U.S. Army.

Thirty-four years ago this month, I took the oath of office here on this campus. I came into ROTC quite by accident.

I came to Bryant College to study law enforcement. Before I arrived I received a card in the mail -- junk mail -- that was from the Providence College Army ROTC Professor of Military Science. His card said, "Heard you were coming to Bryant. We'd love to tell you about our ROTC program at PC." There were three blocks to check:

leave me alone, I'm very interested, and send more info. To this day, I have no idea why I checked "send more info," because I had no inclination toward the Army at all. But I did.

When I showed up at Bryant, I needed a ride to get to Providence to talk to the PMS. Two of my roommates were Vietnam Vets, and both were from Providence. One of them offered to drive me here to PC. I met with the PMS and decided to join. In the spring I received a 3-year scholarship; was commissioned in 1977, and haven't gotten out.

I have long said that we come into the Army for college benefits and job experience, but we stay when we discover that we're part of something bigger than ourselves, as reminded by the oath that we'll take today. We gain a sense of service, and we value the camaraderie that we share.

Earlier today the Lieutenants and I had an opportunity to talk about leadership and what they are about to experience. I'd like to summarize what we talked about with you all – in front of them as a reminder of what this is all about.

I'll start with "Where do I fit in?" It's a notion that I developed several years ago. We all want to know where we fit in – family, kindergarten, school, etc. So where do I fit in?

Generals, SESs and Command Sergeant Majors shape and resource the Army;

Colonels, Lieutenant Colonels and Command Sergeant Majors command the Army;

Majors and Sergeant Majors staff the Army;

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Captains and First Sergeants own the Army;

Lieutenants lead the Army;

Warrant Officers provide expertise to the Army;

Civilians provide continuity to the Army; Sergeants run the Army – they truly are its backbone;

and Soldiers are our Army – its very heart and soul!

So what does it mean to be a lieutenant in 2011, and to lead our Soldiers, especially at this time? Many, if not all of these lieutenants, will lead our Soldiers in combat. You'll be in units that are trained, well-led and have the best equipment in the world.

I want to share three thoughts about being a Lieutenant:

Lieutenants bring scholarship to our Army. You're not the only ones in our Army that go to school. Increasingly, more of our NCOs and young Soldiers have college degrees. But all Lieutenants come from a degree-producing college or university, and then go off to a basic course. You learn to study, research and understand what the book says. Lieutenants bring scholarship to our Army while gaining the necessary experience they'll rely on the rest of their career.

Lieutenants lead by example and from the front. They never ask their Soldiers to do something they won't do themselves. They are in between the captains who issue the

orders and the NCOs and Soldiers that execute. Lieutenants lead by example and from the front.

Lieutenants live Army values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. Many of our Soldiers enter the Army with these values instilled in them. Some do not. We expect our Lieutenants to bring these into the Army with them, and to live them every day. Lieutenants live our Army values.

In summary, Lieutenants lead, train, discipline, care for and serve our Soldiers and their Families in Army units.

It's an honor and privilege to be here today, and welcome to the United States Army!
Thanks for serving.

Congratulations! Army Strong!