

MOUNTAINEER CHALLENGE ALUMNI

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Mountaineer Challenge Academy Welcomes 56th Class



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CADET TO CADRE

Thomas Hawken graduated from the Mountaineer Challenge Academy's second class of 2014 with 129 other cadets.

As a cadet, Mr. Hawken says he was motivated. He knew what he wanted and he was well disciplined. He served as Assistant Platoon Leader once, Platoon Leader 4 times, and also served 1 cycle as Core Commander. Mr. Hawken was voted Most Likely to Succeed, was awarded the Robert C. Byrd trophy and was elected as class speaker.

After graduation, he joined the West Virginia National Guard as part of the 119th Sapper Company. In 2016, Hawken returned to MCA as a cadre.

When asked how his time at MCA impacted his life, he answered "It helped me stay on the right path and gave me the opportunity to help others and help the state's youth."



MCA South



MCA South, located in Montgomery, WV, welcomed its first class in October of 2020.

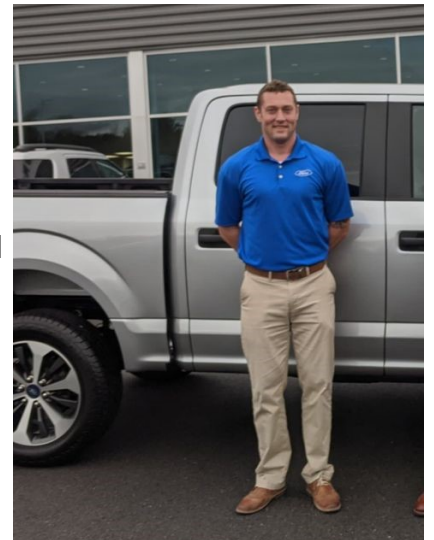
Paul Perdue, Director of MCA South had this to say regarding the program - "As the newest Challenge Academy in the state, we have faced our fair share of challenges. But, much like our cadets, we rise to the challenge! Through it all we have found ways to make things work because we never lost hope. We believe in the MCA mission, our cadets and our co-workers".

The newest class for the Mountaineer Challenge Academy will graduate in March 2021.

THE ROAD to success

Lindsey Ormsbee (Class 2 – 2003)

I found success almost immediately upon arriving at MCA. I served as Corps Commander 4/6 grading periods and graduated with top honors. My son was born on our first break home from school. After I graduated I did 8 years in the USN as an Aviation Ordnance Tech. We served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I received an honorable discharge as an E-5 at the end of my obligated time. I'm currently employed at Greenbrier Ford as a salesperson and helping my son get recruited by college athletic programs. MCA was able to change my way of thinking and to never settle for anything less. I will never forget my time there and hope that future generations get the same opportunity I had.



Mark William Broughton (Class 1 - 2019)

I was in the Military Prep Course while I attended Mountaineer Challenge Academy. Shortly after graduating from MCA, I went into the Mountaineer Job Challenge Program. I was in the first graduating class for MJCP. I am currently in the US Army National Guard as a 91F Small Arms and Artillery Repairman. I'm proud of how far I've come and I couldn't thank the Youth Challenge Program enough for helping me find the right path for me to go down.

Want to be featured in our next Alumni newsletter? Contact Roxanne Bright (roxanne.l.bright@wv.gov) and let her know what you've been up to since you left MCA. We love to hear how well our graduates are doing!



Our cadets say that the food at MCA is one of their **favorite** things here. Here is one of their favorite recipes, straight from the DFAC!

Meatloaf

4 lbs Ground Beef
 1 ½ cups Breadcrumbs
 2 ½ tsp Kosher Salt
 1 ¼ tsp Black Pepper
 ½ tsp Garlic Powder
 ½ cup Milk
 ¼ cup Celery
 3 oz Onion
 ¼ cup Green Peppers
 2 Eggs
 ½ cup Tomato Juice
 ¼ cup Brown Sugar
 2 ½ TBSP Yellow Mustard
 ½ cup Ketchup
 1 ¼ tsp Worcestershire Sauce

1. Combine beef with breadcrumbs, salt, pepper and garlic. Mix until well blended.
2. Mix in the milk, celery, onions, peppers, eggs and tomato juice. Mix lightly and thoroughly. Do not overmix.
3. Make 8-10 small meatloaves and place on a baking sheet. Cook at 350° for 40 minutes, until the meatloaves reach 155° F internal temperature.
4. While the meatloaves are cooking, mix brown sugar, mustard, ketchup and Worcestershire sauce in a saucepan. Bring to a simmer for 2 minutes.
5. When the meatloaves reach 155° F, ladle the sauce on top and bake for an additional 10 minutes.



Interested in mentoring future cadets? If you live in West Virginia and are at least 25 years old you could qualify. Contact the RPM Office at the Mountaineer Challenge Academy at 304.791.7387 for more information.