

**MOUNTAINEER
CHALLENGE
ALUMNI**

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Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy Welcomes 60th Class



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CADET TO CADRE



Torri Lambert graduated from the Mountaineer Challenge Academy's first class of 2018 with 137 other cadets.

As a cadet, Ms. Lambert says she was very talkative. "I was constantly being PT'd for it."

After graduation, she enlisted in the National Guard. She completed basic training and AIT and joined the 1201st FSC, located on Camp Dawson in Kingwood, WV.

Ms. Lambert returned to the Mountaineer Challenge Academy in 2022 as a squad leader. "I came back because I wanted to be a part of changing the lives of the teens that come through the program."

When asked how her time at MCA impacted her life, she answered "MCA completely change my life around in a full 180."

Happy Birthday MCA!

The Mountaineer Challenge Academy opened its doors in 1993. A lot of things have changed in those 30 years. But one thing that has never waived is MCA's commitment to changing the lives of students in the state of West Virginia.

We were one of the first Challenge academies in the country and we have over 5,000 graduates to our credit. Those graduates have gone to make an impact around the globe. Whether your career path included the military, college, trade school, or you went straight in to the work force, know that we are proud of you. You are completing your task, regardless of how difficult it might be.

So Happy Birthday MCA! 30 looks great on you. Here's to many, many more!



THE ROAD to success



Brandon Bailes (Class 1-2003)

Brandon joined the Navy as an air traffic controller. He moved back to Huntington, WV, got his paralegal degree and did that for a while. Now he supervises 8 stores for home medical equipment. He likes to attribute a lot to his time spent in the MCA!

Nick Campbell (Class 2 - 2014)

Nick is working as a full-time real estate agent. He and his wife (Kirsten, class 2-2015) bought their first home 2 years ago and are proud parents to a 6-year old little girl and 2 golden retrievers. Kirsten is currently working as a nurse.



Caylee [McCarthy] Gray (Class 2 - 2015)

Caylee is currently working as an Optometric Technician and will be starting Optometry School in the near future. She was married in 2021 and is hoping to move to North Carolina.

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!

Balsamic Pork Roast

- 2 lbs 6 oz Pork Butt
- 1¼ tsp Chicken Bouillon
- 10 TBSP Water
- 10 TBSP Balsamic Vinegar
- 2¼ tsp Worcestershire Sauce
- 2¼ tsp Honey
- ½ tsp Salt
- ½ tsp Black Pepper

Season roast with salt and pepper.

Mix bouillon, water, balsamic vinegar and worcestershire sauce together and pour over roast.

Pour honey over roast.

Bake at 300° for 4 hours or until fork tender.

Roughly shred the pork and serve with the cooking liquid.



Have you ever considered a career with the Mountaineer ChalleNGe Academy?

MCA North, MCA South and Mountaineer Job ChalleNGe are all hiring.

You can check out the Employment Page on the MCA web page and fill out the WV Military Authority application.

If you have any questions, you can contact HR Belinda Sharp at 304.791.7907



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.