

# MOUNTAINEER CHALLENGE ALUMNI

Fall 2023

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## Mountaineer Challenge Academy Welcomes 61st Class



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# CADET TO CADRE



Teigan (Jackson) Price graduated from the Mountaineer Challenge Academy's first class of 2011 with 83 other cadets.

As a cadet, Mrs. Price says she was very squared away. "I was only PT'd once"

After graduation, she did HVAC/Refrigeration/Electrical work for 7 years.

She returned to MCA in February of 2023. "I've always wanted to return to Challenge. The fact that I am now in a position to help young adults the way so many helped me 12 years ago makes me feel extremely grateful".

When asked how MCA impacted her life she said "MCA had directly impacted me in so many great ways. From the way I neatly fold my clothes, to the way my feet still land at attention when I sit down to eat my meals. Most of all I credit my work ethic and motivation to the MCA. I pride myself in so many things in life due to Challenge. I am forever grateful to MCA and it's wonderful staff."



## MCA South

Mountaineer Challenge Academy South was recently contacted by Stanley Boyd, Fayetteville City Council Member about a need they had in their community. A widow of a WWII hero needed assistance to reconstruct her dilapidated porch because it was becoming hazardous.



Thankful to a community who came together and provided materials, cadets Jordan, Miller, Casto, Camp, Kelly, and Messer, along with the community leader logged over 54 man-hours building a safe porch along with a much needed wheelchair ramp for this local hero's widow.

# THE ROAD to success



## Nicholas Henson (Class 2-2010)

Since graduation, Nick has been busy. He has held basic minimum wage jobs, factory jobs, and worked in construction. He got into sales and eventually went in to business with another cadet from his class running a food delivery app called DubVEatz, operating in Morgantown and the Eastern Panhandle. He has done online sales and is building a dropship store. Most recently, he is working on breeding and showing reptiles, and plans to breed Ball Pythons, Burmese Pythons, and Tegu Lizards.

## Kendric Branford (Class 1-2019)

Kendric doesn't know where he would be without the Academy. "I learned perseverance, integrity and that you can do anything you set your mind to with the right mind set! My story is a little different from most cadets. While attending my second leave I was in a terrible car accident with another cadet on our way home with our parents. We were in pain, devastated and scared. I was even airlifted to Ruby Memorial In Morgantown . While I was in the hospital Mrs. Trickett came and checked on me and the other cadet to see if we were okay . The point I'm getting to is this — the staff cares about you to no end. They want to see you succeed and although sometimes it doesn't seem like it they're always in your corner; especially the cadre and teaching staff. After graduation I came back home and got enrolled in welding school and just graduated this past June . I don't think any of this would be possible if it wasn't for the Academy staff the cadre and teachers . Challenge yourself, change your life!!"



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!



## Shawn Roberts (Class 1-2016)

Shawn has been a Marine, since enlisting a month after he graduated from MCA. He has served for 8 years, has a wife and 3 beautiful children. He is currently a USMC recruiter in his hometown of Martinsburg, WV. "I was 16 when I arrived at the MCA and was attempting to get away from the abuse being suffered at home. Though life was not hard I felt sticking around that environment wouldn't lead to success. The Academy's academics and their structure secured my future for me because it gave me the confidence to do anything I put my mind to, by pushing me out of my comfort zone, trying new things, but most importantly never running from adversity. It pushed me to become smarter and think on my feet, to be independent, and lastly, to lead."

## Alex Miller (Class 2-2020)

Alex is currently putting himself through college (Computer Science) at Full Sail University, and is in his first year. He currently works at a gas station and is working his way up to be the Assistant Manager. He recently got married and is expecting his first child. "MCA has helped me by giving me the discipline and chance to turn my life around. I feel like if I didn't go to MCA I would not be where I am today. I am so thankful for MCA."



## William Winfree (Class 1-2021)

William is currently in the United States Marine Corps flying drones with 3rd Light Armor reconnaissance helping them implement UAVs into their war fighting capabilities. He has been training in the desert at Sunny 29 Palms. He gets to travel a lot and fly a lot too. "Mountaineer Challenge Academy has affected me by helping me develop discipline and having my mindset in a military way for boot camp. It also helped me thrive in a spartan lifestyle. Being organized and disciplined helps me strive every day for success in my military career."

## Shawn Young (Class 2-2021)

Shawn is currently a PV2 in the United States Army. He attended MCA at 16. "The academy helped me get where I am today by instilling leadership skills, an education, and a strong mindset. The academy also helped me realize that the world is bigger than just me and it showed me how to be respectful and responsible and take accountability when I messed up. I joined the military six months after graduating from the Challenge Academy and it was a lot like being back at the Academy. I owe a lot of my success today to the Mountaineer Challenge Academy!"



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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!

### Hotteok

- 1 qt and 1 cup of All Purpose Flour
- 2 TBSP Yeast
- 1 TBSP and 1 tsp Granulated Sugar
- 2 cups 1% Milk
- ½ cup of Water
- 2 ½ TBSP Kosher Salt
- 3 ½ cup of Light Brown Sugar
- ¾ cup of Pecans
- 1 TBSP and 1 tsp Cinnamon

Heat water and milk to 95 degrees.

In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar and yeast.

Add heated milk to dry ingredients.

After mixing for a minute or 2, add salt. Continue to knead for 5 minutes. Remove from the mixing bowl and allow to raise. Dough will be soft, but should not be overly sticky.

Mix sugar, cinnamon and nuts.

Portion dough into 2 ounce balls, flatten and fill with 2 tablespoons of sugar mixture.

Gather the edge of the dough and pinch shut.

Fry with oil in a skillet or deep fryer.



**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.