David Droppa, in response to a unit visit survey from January 16, 2023

After this visit, it's been decided to do a Unit Highlight piece in the soon to come quarterly Brigade Connections online newsletters.

In order to do so, here are a few questions we'd like you to answer, so that a short article can be written up. – Arden Musselman

1. How long has your unit been in existence? **Don’t know. CSB would have the year we were assigned a number. I started serving in the 1970s.**
2. Why do you believe your unit is thriving**? God’s blessing on us. Vision and mission of CSB is compelling. We follow the disciplines of Battalion. God keeps blessing us with adult leaders and noncoms. ACAC has been supportive.**
3. How do you incorporate discipleship into your ministry to the young men? **We focus on mentoring. Each year we establish from two to four measurable objectives, and this year one is to strengthen mentoring. On our recent Parker Dam trip all three Council Rings focused on mentoring and in one, the corporal who led it broke us into pairs and we did mentoring and reported back. The squad structure of Battalion invites discipleship. I was in a growth group last year that developed a discipleship module for ACAC, and as part of that we read several books. The most memorable is *Deep Discipleship* by J T English. As I read, I kept realizing that the disciplines and structures of Battalion are a model of the deep discipleship English talks about.**
4. What are some of your unit's favorite activities? **Paintball, airsoft, spring COR at Hickory Hill, fall camping trip at White’s Pond, cabin camping at Parker Dam State Park, winter survival, mostly for noncoms, activity patches (mostly self-designed.. currently doing one on Technology & Christianity… one of our corporals designed the patch, Christmas and end of the year all you can eat pizza and wings parties, New Year eve party. We also eat really well. Ever have French toast casserole?**
5. How are you incorporating leadership training into your ministry? **Mentoring, as noted above. Last year we did a weekend camping trip focused on leadership training (two hour session) for noncoms and a couple of prospective noncoms. Encouraging guys to do achievements and consider becoming noncoms. Leadership training weekend at Hickory Hill called Leadership Advance. Leaders huddle after every meeting with a piece on what could be improved. Last week, for example, one corporal said his guys were on their cell phones and he didn’t know how to stop that, and another a corporal said he was having every squad member put their cell phone on the table at the beginning of the meeting.**
6. Does your unit provide mentors for each of the young men? **Chairman mentors the captain, captain mentors the Lts, Lts mentor the noncoms, and noncoms mentor the privates. An assessment of mentoring outcomes at Parker Dam in January revealed that we don’t think we are going too well…but we focused on it that weekend and plan to continue.**
7. Do you have 1 or 2 principles you have learned and would love to share with other Brigade leaders? **Keep the program focused on growth of Christian young men.**

**Keep it structured and moving… use all the parts of a typical Battalion meeting (we add achievement counseling time and snack time). Make transitions crisp.**

**Rely on noncoms for everything possible; they are essential to a successful program. I know… that’s not one or two!**

1. Could you provide a short testimonial of how a young man or a leader has grown or come to faith through your ministry? **We have a young man right now whose mom was considering pulling him out of the program because his grades were low, and he wasn’t motivated to do well in school. She didn’t let him go on the fall camping trip, but she had second thoughts. I asked if I could share her concern with him, and she agreed. I’ve been meeting with him for five minutes during snack time, talking about what is working and not working in school and at home, and praying with and for him, and communicating with his mom. His grades in all but one subject have improved, and he hasn’t missed a meeting or event.**

**Another young man was very upset that his dad had to move out of the house due to a fidelity issue. He talked with leaders about what he was going through, and leaned on us when he couldn’t lean as much on his dad. He ended up forgiving his dad, and was elated when his parents reunited.**

I also have another question for you, after my visit.

1. Do you think it would be appropriate to send the attached photos of a particular young man to our CSB Office? They are always looking for good pictures to post, but when there is a recognizable face, it is right to ask permission to include. What is your thought on this particular one? **I think I emailed you that youth’s mom and he both said OK to use his photo.**
2. Do you have a permission to use photos clause in your registration of boys in battalion**?**

You have a lieutenant doing photography for your battalion, Do you have such a policy used by the photographer? **No; I could add it to our registration form. Good idea!**

**Dave Droppa**