



UTAH NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS
12953 S. Minuteman Drive, Draper, UT 84020-1776
P: (801) 432-4407 - F: (801) 432-4677 - www.ut.ngb.army.mil
Twitter: @UTNationalGuard - [Facebook.com/utahnationalguard](https://www.facebook.com/utahnationalguard)

Press Release 11-028, 26 July 2011

Contact: 1st Lt. Paul Chapman, (605) 786-6013

For Immediate Release

Bear River City Soldier Receives 'Excellent' Rating at OCS

FORT MEADE, S.D. – In only the third week of training, Officer Candidate Brian Anderson of Bear River City, Utah, received the highest leadership rating possible during Officer Candidate School at Fort Meade, S.D., June 23.

Anderson received a leadership rating of “excellent” during his time as 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion (Officer Candidate School), 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), platoon leader.

The OCS program consists of three phases. Throughout these phases candidates go through crawl, walk and run stages of leadership development.

“The first week of Phase II is still a crawl stage for the candidates,” said 1st Sgt. Dan Konechne, Alpha Company’s senior enlisted Soldier. “It’s pretty hard to get an excellent rating in the first week.”

When an officer candidate enters a leadership position they are assigned three critical tasks by a platoon trainer. Candidates must ensure these tasks are successfully completed within a timely manner.

“I had to make sure the platoon successfully completed combat water survival training, pass a company commander’s barracks inspection and each platoon member pass the military intelligence exam,” said Officer Candidate Anderson.

During the leadership period, platoon trainers observe candidates actions to determine how well they use troop-leading procedures, which are systematic approaches to a task and used to complete missions.

-more-

“We evaluate them not only on their leadership but also their critical thinking and their ability to use their subordinates,” said Capt. Darrin Anderson, platoon trainer. “We look to see if they make full use of their troop leading procedures and properly use the assets they have available.”

“For the combat water survival I got the packing list from higher, spread it out to the squad leaders, did some checks at night before lights-out and left for training on time the next morning,” said Officer Candidate Anderson.

It was Anderson’s proficiency in delegating tasks which led to his “excellent” rating.

“I think Officer Candidate Anderson did an excellent job of coordinating and managing his squad leaders and platoon sergeant throughout his rating period,” said Capt. Anderson.

“If a candidate receives an excellent rating in the first week of Phase II, that means they are pretty squared away,” added Konechne.

Officer Candidate Anderson however, was very modest when he learned of his leadership rating “It was humbling,” he said. “You always feel like you can make improvements.”

Media Notes: For high-resolution photos of Officer Candidate Anderson, please contact 1st Lt. Paul Chapman at (605) 786-6013 or paul.d.chapman@us.army.mil.