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Dear Friends:

For the past sixteen months, we have published a monthly newsletter highlighting people and events important to the lives of Chamberlain-Hunt Cadets. This month only we are changing the format slightly and combining our *Cadet Life* newsletter with an appeal.

Our budget is, primarily, tuition-driven. We derive roughly 75% of the income needed to cover our expenses from tuition. The remaining 25% (plus scholarship funds that go toward paying tuition for those who cannot afford the cost) come from men and women across the country who see the need for training boys to think and to act like Christian men—and know boys get that training at Chamberlain-Hunt Academy.

Not only does that training happen in required Bible classes, it also happens *formally* through other academic classes, the military structure, the athletic teams and weekly chapel, and *informally* through daily interaction with godly men and women who work on staff.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a response envelope. We hope you will be a part of providing academically rigorous, physically challenging and spiritually sound training to boys from across the United States at Chamberlain-Hunt by praying for the Cadets and the staff, and all their families. This is both rewarding and difficult work for all of us. You can be a part of it, too, by including Chamberlain-Hunt in your regular and year-end giving.

You can direct your gifts to the general scholarship fund, through which we pay the tuition of those Cadets whose families cannot afford the cost. You can direct it toward improving our facilities (like the science labs, the library or the computer lab). Or, you can simply give, knowing that we will use it where it is most needed. The choice is yours.

If you are not already receiving our monthly *Cadet Life* newsletter or the *CHA Cadet Life* newspaper, we would be happy to send them to you so you will know more of what the Cadets are doing. Better yet, come visit us in Port Gibson—or if you like, we will come to you! We would be happy to put on a program for your church or civic group. Just let us know.

In the meantime, we wish you a joyful Christmas.

Knowledge and Wisdom!

A. SHANE BLANTON  
COL, CHA  
President

KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM IN SUBMISSION TO GOD



## Merry Christmas

Remember when the greeting this time of year was “Merry Christmas” rather than “Happy Holidays”? The media have given that change a fair bit of publicity recently. At Chamberlain-Hunt, we encourage the traditional greeting because, well, we are Christians and we celebrate the birth of our Savior this month.

Of course, for Cadets, there are a lot of things to celebrate in December—the end of the first semester, for one. Cadet life is fairly rigorous. Up, dressed and eating breakfast at 0630 every morning; an hour and a half of study hall before morning devotions and the first period class... busy all the way ‘til lights out at 2200. The days are full of demanding academic work and physical exercise. Even though the weekend schedule is quite different, the days are still full. Having completed a semester *is* an accomplishment to be celebrated!

Cadet life is not monotonous work, however. Especially this time of year. Throughout the December, the varsity basketball and soccer teams practiced and played. At the beginning of the month, the Cadets spent a week in the “Wilderness” training for their ECB (Expert Cadet Badge) assessment. Modeled on the Army’s EIB (Expert Infantryman’s Badge), Chamberlain-Hunt’s ECB assesses competency in such areas as physical fitness, assembly/disassembly of M-4s, the CWST (Combat Water Survival Test), hand & arm signals, the SALUTE report (Size Activity Location Uniform Time Equipment intelligence report), adjustment of an indirect fire round, administration of first aid, map reading, marksmanship, individual movement techniques and camouflage.

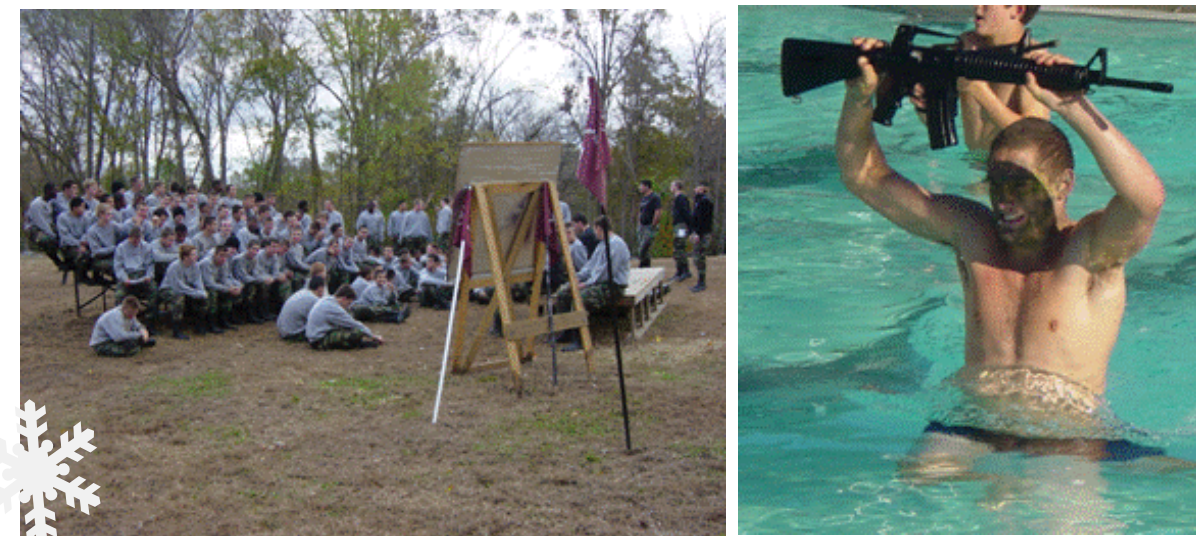
Following ECB assessment, Cadets returned to their regular academic schedules for two and a half weeks before release for the Christmas holiday. During that time, the cultural trappings of Christmas were present: Granny put up her “Charlie Brown” Christmas tree in the dining facility; selected Cadets attended a Christmas party with faculty and board members at COL Blanton’s home and the whole battalion participated in a “gingerbread house” construction competition—followed by a gingerbread house *eating* competition. Additionally, the Chorus sang publicly: caroling in Lightfoot Park and singing for an Advent service at Port Gibson’s First Methodist Church. The semester ended with three days of academic examinations.

Amidst the work and the fun comes the constant reminder that reason behind all that we do is that God’s Son was born into the world to save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:28). We have a great deal to celebrate this year, and the most important thing to celebrate is the birth of our Savior. *Merry Christmas!* ■



**Top Row:** Cadet C. Kassela (TN) after devouring his gingerbread house; Cadet S. Hacker (IL) shoots for 2 against Hillcrest Christian Academy. Cadet R. Green (LA) applies camouflage to Cadet D. Tuttle (LA) during ECB training.

**Bottom Row:** Cadets A. Gammage (LA), A. Mineo (NY), D. Hanlin (TX) and D. Hungerford (WA) engineer a gingerbread Empire State Building. Cadets received instruction by company during the training phase of ECB. Cadet H. Mercer (MS) will tell you the CWST (Combat Water Survival Test) was as cold as it looks!



**YEAR-END GIVING:** Because of hurricane Katrina, the IRS will allow cash gifts to charities, completed by 31 December 2005, to be deducted up to 100% of income rather than the standard limit of 50%. Tied up with this is another provision allowing persons over age 59.5 to make withdrawals from IRA's or other retirement plans for charitable gifts with no penalty. Such gifts will be fully deductible regardless of size, if made by 31 December 2005. Please call us, or check with your accountant, if you have any questions. ■