

Reflective Journal Entry - Week 1

Date: 11JUN2023

Hours Completed: 50 hours

Learning Objectives:

- Develop effective leadership skills.
- Enhance communication and mentorship abilities.
- Foster teamwork and discipline among Midshipman Candidates.

During my first week as a Midshipman Instructor at Recruit Training Command (RTC) Great Lakes, IL we conducted training before the Candidates arrived, and executed flyers day. The first 3 days were training to be Midshipman Instructors. The main objectives that the Officer in Charge said were to ensure the well-being of the Midshipman Candidates, and to create an environment that is challenging mentally, and physically. Some responsibilities that I am tasked with are ensuring the Candidates eat 3 meals a day, cleanliness of the compartment, blister care, and hydration. Flyers Day is when the Midshipman Candidates arrive and get settled into the compartment where they will be conducting training in. To clarify for you, Midshipman Candidates (Candidates) are civilians wanting to go into the Navy ROTC program, this includes people who just graduated high school, or are already in college. I am assigned with the task of making sure that they understand Operational Security, and to mentor, train, and guide them throughout the next 3 weeks.

The first 5 days have been breakdown days. Some observations I have made for myself are my leadership style during this training. Commanding leadership is the style that has worked best for me during the past 5 days. In a boot camp environment, the commanding presence and style have been effective. I made sure to provide clear instructions and expectations, maintain discipline, and ensure that participants follow protocols. Such as the Candidates have to refer to themselves in 3rd person. For example, if I asked them what their 3rd General order to the sentry is, they would reply with "Midshipman, this candidate's 3rd General order to the sentry is _____. Midshipman." Later this week I am giving a brief on OPSEC, this will help the Candidates understand how they will obtain their security clearance, and maintain it. Also, I will include why it's important to check their Social Networks to verify friends are really their friends on social media.

Some challenges that I have encountered are the transition of living a military lifestyle. Some of the candidates were not used to discipline and strict rules, they had freedom and flexibility in their life. Missing that can be challenging for them to understand the purpose and service they are going to enter. A couple of days later when the Candidates arrived we conducted a pick-up day which involves Marine Drill Instructors taking over the platoon for the afternoon while Midshipman Instructors observe. The candidates were not well prepared for the physical demands that the military needs. Over the course of these 3 weeks, they will improve

their overall physical health. I am completing the first 3 objectives by mentoring, and leading the candidates to show them discipline and how to be successful in the military. Later on sometime this week or next week, I will go over OPSEC with the Candidates.

End of Report.