

Christian perspectives on life in the military

COMMAND[®]

SUMMER 2017

Vol. 66 • No. 2 • \$5.00

A new vision for OCF

For the past two years the OCF Council and staff have jointly prayed and labored to arrive at God's calling for OCF, resulting in a new Strategic Framework.

Celebrating a campaign milestone

The dedication of the expanded dining room and new classrooms in Hartley Holmes Lodge took place at OCF's Spring Canyon Retreat and Conference Center on 29 May.

Growing Christian military leaders

For the young men and women attending our nation's military service academies, one particular path toward shaping servant leader skills goes off-road through Third World settings via mission trips.

Stand firm in the faith

On Point, page 2



OFFICERS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Building Christian leaders, families, fellowships...for a lifetime

Embolden | Equip | Encourage | Engage

Calling all Daniels: Stand firm

The recent blockbuster movie *Hacksaw Ridge* chronicles the life of a conscientious objector during World War II who, nonetheless, would not be deterred from serving his country. Despite his convictions as a self-described “conscientious cooperator,” Desmond Doss still felt called to enlist. But he wanted to stay true to his faith, which led him to not carry arms.



**DAVID
WARNER**

Executive
Director

Find battle buddies to help you stand courageously in your military life at the intersection of faith, family and profession:

Find an OCF group:
ocfusa.org/find

Attend an OCF conference center:

White Sulphur Springs:
whitesulphur-springs.org

Spring Canyon:
springcanyon.org

Although he suffered much for his beliefs and for taking a stand for the Lord, it did not deter him from loving his men as Christ loved them. On more than one occasion he bravely risked his life so that others might live. And for his sacrificially gallant service to his men, Doss was awarded our nation’s highest award—the Medal of Honor—while never bearing arms nor firing a single shot.

In my last article I highlighted the three main points of the Daniel 11:32 verse: know God, stand firm, take action. I identified the critical aspect of knowing your God, which has two main truths to it: He created us and knows us, and He seeks us and sent His Son that we may know Him. The Creator of all wants us to know Him!

In this issue of *COMMAND* I am highlighting stand firm. Because Private Doss knew his Lord, every moment of every day he stood firm on who he was in Christ, and that dictated his behavior toward others. Doss’ stand took a great deal of courage: physical, emotional, intellectual, social, moral—and above all, spiritual.

So, what is courage? Most of us are familiar with the popular definition: “The ability to do something that frightens one.” The word courage actually comes from the Old French word “corage” and from Latin “cor,” both of which mean “heart.” By combining these meanings we derive what I believe is a truer definition:

Being motivated from the heart to do something brave.

Scripture goes on to tell us: “Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13, New Living Translation).

While it might seem strange to talk about displaying courage in everyday life, I am convinced that being and acting as a Christian today, as well as integrating your faith into your family life and profession, does take tremendous courage against the drastically changing landscape of today’s society. And the best place to start is in your own life and within your family. As proclaimed in Joshua 24:15, which is one of my life verses, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

What does that look like today? How are you courageously standing firm personally and in your family? Are you modeling an integrated life of faith, family, and

profession to your family, those around you personally, and in the workplace? Consider these points:

- Do you have a daily quiet time, where you search Scripture and go before God’s throne to pray?
- Do you have someone in your life to hold you accountable?
- Does your family engage in Bible reading, prayer, and a daily devotional?
- Are you involved in corporate worship?
- Do you seek out Christian fellowship opportunities?
- Is your professional competence such that it draws others to seek you out for insight?

I have been blessed by many of you through your stories of struggle and triumph as you serve our nation and the Lord. Several have expressed the challenges of standing firm when you feel isolated and perhaps asked to carry out policies that go counter to your beliefs. I encourage you to engage with others in fellowship, either personally or virtually, and I invite you to attend one of OCF’s two conference centers—White Sulphur Springs in Pennsylvania or Spring Canyon in Colorado—where you will feel connected, get immersed in God’s Word, and have plenty of time to reflect, refresh, and be prepared for your return to your family and workplace.

Remember: “Two people can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break” (Ecclesiastes 4:12, Good News Translation).

I leave you with this quote from Private Doss:

“I wasn’t trying to be a hero. I was thinking about it from this standpoint—in a house on fire and a mother has a child in that house, what prompts her to go in and get that child? Love. I loved my men, and they loved me. I don’t consider myself a hero. I just couldn’t give them up, just like a mother couldn’t give up the child.” He added, “I just kept asking, ‘Lord, please help me get just one more man.’”

May we all have the courage, the heart, to stand firm and show the love of Christ to all those around us. ✚

OCF USMA

Tom & Cheri Austin // former Field Staff reps
Colin & Amy Wooten // new Field Staff reps

Drop-in for the Wootens

We invited our staff and faculty ministry team, as well as cadet leadership and the cadets in the classes of 2018-2020, to stop by the OCF Fellowship House and meet the Wootens. We had some deserts set up in the backyard. Amy and Colin shadowed us for five days and had many intense conversations with us and others who will be pivotal parts of their ministry when they arrive. We hosted an informal dinner that allowed them to meet Paul and Shannon Walker, the BCM directors and their children, and Shawn and Marie Hatch, the Navigator directors and their children. They addressed issues of how to do ministry with children and how to answer school and sports-related questions.

OCF Pensacola

Chet & Michelle Arnold // OCF Field Staff

Blessed to see God's continued work

Three couples who were part of OCF Pensacola and then moved to Texas and California came through at different times recently on their way to their next duty stations. In all three cases they testified to how the fellowship here had fueled them up for the next part of their adventure. Two of the couples were able to share during our regular Wednesday night Bible study. We recently visited two of these couples in Corpus Christi and saw firsthand how they were leading the fellowship there. Seeing these couples was a great shot in the arm as God allowed us to see His continued work in the lives of these young families.

White Sulphur Springs

Paul & Dawn Robyn // OCF Field Staff

Blessed by Midshipmen

Midshipmen from USNA supported us once again for the Resurrection Retreat this year. Providing teachers to augment



MidSouth OCF/Valor retreat photo

OCF At-large

Eleven cadets from three universities attended the MidSouth OCF/Valor ROTC retreat at Carolina Bible Camp in North Carolina earlier this year, where they and several leaders heard COL Jimmie Coy, AUS (Ret.) share his heart on military service. OCF Field Staff reps Bill (fifth from right, back row) and Judy (right, on platform) Hudspeth were among the OCFers on hand to pour back "into the lives of our future military leaders."

Bill & Judy Hudspeth // OCF Field Staff reps

our children's program and musicians to help lead worship, they jumped right into the mix with our EXSEL interns and formed an amazing team. It's a great thing, any chance I get, to have a cadet or midshipmen come here to WSS to participate in an event and see how the conference center ministry of OCF can be a part of their life. I think of each visit here to WSS as another OCF inoculation shot—

the more they can see it, the more they can hopefully catch the bigger picture of OCF beyond their time at the academy. We certainly hope to continue to partner with USNA to support the Resurrection Retreat and are open to seeing how we can partner more to support USMA and USCGA as well.

Continued on Next Page ►

Ministry News

OCF Council Elections, Spring meeting wrapup

OCF Council Elections

The season of OCF Council elections is changing starting this summer to better align to OCF's new fiscal year of 1 Jun–31 May. Elections normally held during the month of September will instead be switched to March. Therefore, the Class of 2020 elections that would have taken place this September will now occur in March of 2018.

All Council nominations received this year for the originally planned 2017 September election remain valid and will be included on the ballot for the March 2018 election, as well as any nominations coming from the 1 January–15 February nomination period in 2018. The new council class elected in March 2018 will

be seated on 1 June 2018.

The OCF website will have comprehensive candidate information in February 2018 in preparation for elections. For questions or further details, contact heidi.martin@ocfusa.org or 800-424-1984.

OCF Council Spring meeting wrapup

As military leaders gathered together to seek the Lord and His purposes for the ministry, on 20-23 April OCF Council had its bi-annual meeting at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center around the theme of, "See, I am doing a new thing!" (Isaiah 43:19).

Those words from Isaiah gave focus to a time of transition of OCF's major thrusts. After more than ten years of the Growing and Building Campaign, OCF raised over 13 million dollars toward improvements and new buildings at OCF's two retreat centers for increased capacity and impact. With the campaign's transi-

tion from active fundraising over Memorial Day weekend at OCF's Spring Canyon Conference Center (see pages 8-9), the Council prepared for the next years of OCF's work through the Strategic Framework.

To set conditions for success the Council voted to approve a new vision and mission statements. OCF's restated vision is now, "The military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders" and the new mission statement is, "OCF engages military leaders in biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession."

OCF Council sought to ground the new vision and mission statements on a solid scriptural foundation by tying key terms from passages in the Bible that focused on topics such as: positive impact, Christ-like service, engagement and biblical fellowship.

The Council believes that these new

BIRTHS

Emily Jean Erickson, born 10 December 2016, daughter of **MAJ Pete and Laura Erickson, USA**, Fort Hood, TX.

Robert Bruce Grady Gannaway, born 5 May 2016, son of **LTC Bruce and Sarah Gannaway, USA**, Fort Hood, TX.

Elwyn Roisin Kilpatrick, born 1 April 2017, daughter of **LT Ian and Jacqui Kirkpatrick, USN**, Virginia Beach, VA.

WEDDINGS

Capt Lauren Chaffee, USAF, married **Christopher Kruse**, 4 May 2017. Their home is Litchfield Park, AZ.

ENS Will Parker, USN, married **Sarah Lomax**, 1 April 2017. Their home is Charleston, SC.

Capt Christopher Reardon, USMC, married **Kristine Holbrook**, 23 February 2017. Their home is San Diego, CA.

TAPS

COL James McGillivray, USAF (Ret.), 6 February 2017, husband of **Shirley McGillivray**, Crestwood, IL.

COL Stuart Perkins, USA (Ret.), 17 April 2017, husband of **Edna Perkins**, Bolivia, NC.

Maj Paul Henry Scheerer Jr., USAF (Ret.), 4 February 2017, husband of **Kathy Scheerer**, Lincoln, NE.

Jonie Snow, 21 March 2017, wife of **LTC Don Snow, USA (Ret.)**, Corvallis, OR.

OCF HONOR FUND

The OCF Honor Fund gift is a meaningful way to honor or remember someone special in your life while also supporting the ministry of Officers' Christian Fellowship.

HONOR

Capt Norwood Band, USMC
CDR James Ellis CHC, USN (Ret.)
By Anonymous

A.J. Northrup

By Col & Mrs. Alan Northrup, USAF (Ret.)

CDR Bryan and Sherri Burt, USN (Ret.)

By 2ndLt Laura Stromback, USMC

CDT Andres Alejos, USA

By Mr. & Mrs. Jose Alejos

CDT Avery Evans, USAF

By MAJ & Mrs. Todd Evans, USA (Ret.)

Col Larry Simpson, USAF (Ret.)

By Ms. Bettye Page
By Ms. Catherine Oakley
By COL & Mrs. Robert Webster, USA (Ret.)
By LTC Matt Sampson, USA & LTC Andrea Sampson, USA

Dr. Martin Carlisle

By Ms. Reagan Mullin
By Mr. Luke Jones

Michael & Ceil Edwards Karen Fliedner

By Ms. Heidi Martin

MG Robert Buker USA (Ret.)

By Ethel Buker

Vietnam War Air Force Officers & Veterans

By Mr. C. Joe Sturz

USMA Class of 1978

By COL & Mrs. Kim Kadesch, USA

MEMORIAL

Andrew Baer

By Mr. Eric Rodenhauer
By 2LT Joshua Washechek, USA
By Anonymous
By CAPT & Mrs. Russell Holmes, USCG
By CDR & Mrs. Aaron Rouland, USN
By CDR & Mrs. Steven Nichols, USNR (Ret.)
By COL & Mrs. Robert Baer, USA
By COL & Mrs. Carl Porter, USA (Ret.)
By COL & Mrs. Mark Troutman, USA (Ret.)
By COL & Mrs. Shane Deverill, USA (Ret.)
By CPT & Mrs. George Rabb, USA
By ENS & Ms. William Parker, USN

vision and mission statements guide the four lines of effort of the Strategic Framework; Member, Engagement, Growth (MEG), led by Susan Wallis, Director of Marketing; Growing Christian Military Leaders (GCML) led by Tom Schmidt, Director of Field Operations; Delivery of Ministry (DMin) led by Bill Rue, Director of Delivery of Ministry; and Stewarding Resources, led by Chris Blake, Director of Ministry Advancement.

As always, a highlight of the Council meeting was its Pray, Discover, and Obey process. Your OCF Council is a praying Council endeavoring to listen to what the Lord is speaking to this tremendous ministry which continues to touch lives for God's glory and His kingdom purposes.

—CH(COL) Marc Gauthier, United States Army

Save the Date

16 September, Saturday Hampton Roads OCF picnic

This annual OCF picnic is intended to unite Christian military members for biblical fellowship and outreach in the Virginia region. The event takes place from 1530-1900 at Yorktown Coast Guard Training Center. Children's activities/games are also planned. Details coming soon.

22-24 September, Friday-Sunday Aspentime Retreat— Spring Canyon Conference Center

OCF's Aspentime Retreat is a weekend getaway filled with opportunities for Christian fellowship, fun, and vibrant teaching against the backdrop of the mountains in their autumn glory. For more information or to make a reservation: springcanyon.org/aspentimere retreat.

1-3 September, Friday-Sunday

6-8 October, Friday-Sunday

Parent Youth Adventure— Spring Canyon Conference Center

Parent Youth Adventure is a Christ-centered, three-day wilderness experience of activities and events tailored to relationally connect parents and their kids. The program is open to moms, dads and their youth, ages eight to thirteen. Check in mid-August for more information: springcanyon.org/aspentimere retreat.

September—November White Sulphur Springs' Bed & Breakfast program

If you weren't able to attend Summer R&R, time as a B&B guest is a great option for quick getaway, your small-group Bible study, or a family reunion. See what God has in store for you: whitesulphursprings.org/bnb.

By LCDR & Mrs. Joshua Corbin, USN
By Lt Col & Mrs. E. J. Davenport, USAF
By Lt Col & Mrs. William Robertson, USAF (Ret.)
By Lt Col Clifton Hertel, USAF (Ret.) & Mrs. Joanne Hagadorn
By LTC & Mrs. Douglas Perritt Jr., USA
By LTC & Mrs. Michael Bigelow, USA (Ret.)
By MAJ & Mrs. Stephen Schmidt, USA
By Mr. & Mrs. David Ham
By Mr. & Mrs. David Britt
By Mr. & Mrs. Francisco Unciano
By Mr. & Mrs. John Vidal
By Mr. & Mrs. Kief Tackaberry
By Mr. & Mrs. Michael Webber
By Mr. & Mrs. Michael Weaver
By Mr. & Mrs. Neal Baughman
By Mr. & Mrs. O. C. Gadecken
By Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilhelm
By Mr. & Mrs. Richard Vick, Jr.
By Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilhelm
By Mr. & Mrs. Steward Remaly
By Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lloyd
By Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wilhelm
By Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Loehring

By Mr. & Mrs. William McClean
By Mr. & Mrs. William Gorodnick
By Mr. Arthur E. Woolley, Jr.
By Mr. Bo Gum
By Mr. Bruce Littell
By Mr. Daniel Townshend
By Mr. Larry Baer
By Mr. Scott Baer
By Mrs. Helena Gerard
By Ms. Amaryllis Rice
By Ms. Ann Hammer
By Ms. Catherine Rubino
By Ms. Elizabeth Britt
By Ms. Jane Lawrence
By Ms. Jane Crabtree
By Ms. Kimberly Canales
By Ms. Mariel Rodgers
By Ms. Martha Johnson
By Ms. Nancy Slack
By Ms. Sally Martino
By Ms. Sue Schwendiman
By MSG Teresa Garrett, USAR (Ret.)
By St. Stephen's Parish Inc.

Betsy Teuton

By CAPT & Mrs. Jeffrey Westling, USCG
By LTJG Rachel Christensen, USCG
By CDT Jonathan Dillard, USCG
By ENS Justin Sherman, USCG

By LT Patrick Weaver, USCG
By Mr. Robert Sanford

Bob Rogers

Jane James
Lorene Flenniken
Phyllis Dudley
Don Dodson
Howard Carlton
Lewis Frisby
Joe Finnell
Juanita Short
Melinda Barrow
By CAPT & Mrs. O. W. Camp Jr., USNR (Ret.)

CAPT Earle Sullivan, USCG (Ret.)

By LtCol & Mrs. Robert Harter, USMC (Ret.)

Capt Mark McDowell, USAF

By Capt Christopher Peterson, USAF

Clay Fannin

By COL & Mrs. Albert Krapf, USA (Ret.)

COL Edward Blight Jr., USA (Ret.)

By CPT & Mrs. Roger Whitman, USA

CAPT Michael Dallam, USN (Ret.)

By CAPT & Mrs. Paul Ims Jr., USN (Ret.)

Elizabeth K. Miller

By Mrs. Ellen Rember

Kenneth Carnahan

By CDR & Mrs. Thomas Carnahan, USN (Ret.)

LT Roy Seaman, USN

By Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Elliott

LtCol Marvin Gardner, USMC (Ret.)

By Mrs. Amy Gardner

Maj Ronald Johnson, USMC (Ret.)

By Mrs. Earline Johnson

COL Eric G. Kail USA (Ret.)

By Mrs. Gigi Kail

Ralph Thompson

By Maj & Mrs. Neil Slattery, USAF (Ret.)



Photo by SSgt Ryan Crane, USAF

OCF kicks off new strategic framework

By Brigadier General David Warner, United States Air Force, Retired
OCF Executive Director

If you ask Christian military leaders what's at the top of their priority list to more fully walk in their calling, some common responses might include: growing as a Christian, serving as an effective military leader, and thriving within family and other relationships.

The reality is that every day throughout military society, we see leadership failures, fragmented families and relationships, stunted spiritual growth, and fruitless walks with Christ.

The good news is there's a way to achieve a life of significance. In a morally confused culture, the truth of the Gospel can and does live out in God's people who bear the responsibilities of leadership. These people can have a transformational effect within organizations, families, and relationships.

People are hungry for real leadership, the kind of leadership that is based on proven biblical principles applied by Christ-followers bearing godly character and walking in God's truth, power, and wisdom. Biblical characters like Joseph, Nehemiah, Daniel, Esther,

the centurion of Capernaum, and many others living in troubled times have shown the way. It is now our turn to lead in God's way.

For the past two years the OCF Council and staff have jointly prayed and labored to arrive at God's calling for OCF, resulting in a new Strategic Framework effective on 1 June. It includes new vision and mission statements to guide our efforts. The vision describes the desired fruit we seek to bear for God's glory and through His enabling, while the mission describes the primary actions we take to enable fulfillment of the vision.

Vision: The military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders

Mission: OCF engages military leaders in biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession

The 2018-2022 Strategic Framework lays out the living plan OCF will execute to accomplish our mission. It is a living plan in that we will learn as we progress and make changes as necessary within the dynamic nature of the military, our membership, and the resources available.

In the process of arriving at the Vision, Mission, and Strategic Framework, the OCF Council and staff remained firmly rooted in the eternal truth of God in Jesus Christ, His written word, and OCF's eight spiritual pillars.

The Strategic Framework calls for phased actions along four lines of effort/thrusts. The four lines of effort of the Strategic Framework are: 1) Member, Engagement, Growth, led by Susan Wallis, Director of Marketing; 2) Growing Christian Military Leaders, led by Tom Schmidt, Director of Field Operations; 3) Delivery of Ministry, led by Bill Rue, Director of Delivery of Ministry; and 4) Stewarding Resources, led by Chris Blake, Director of Stewardship.

Early and critical efforts of the framework

>Expand and modernize our resources and programs for continuous growth of members to include:

- Growth in personal maturity in Christ
- Growth in effectively applying faith in Christ in professional responsibilities
- Growth in applying faith in family life and other relationships
- Growth in serving and leading within OCF

>Update the OCF means and methods to reach and effectively engage the membership in all environments—staff-led locations, within existing fellowships, and where members may be isolated from an existing fellowship.

>Provide creative, timely, user friendly, and relevant encouragement and resources that enable the membership to more effectively integrate their calling and faith wherever they serve.

>Mobilize and equip the membership, particularly more seasoned members, to engage in leader development efforts such as mentoring and discipling junior members, ROTC support, extending the associate staff program in critical locations, and assisting in the development of programs and resources.

>Actively engage senior NCOs, underserved groups within the military, other ministries, and churches to expand God's work within the military.

>Effectively steward OCF Conference Centers and all other resources (facilities, finances, staff) for optimum impact on the military community.

Vision and Mission

OCF has adopted new vision and mission statements.

Vision: The military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders

Mission: OCF engages military leaders in biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession

How you can get involved

In the coming months, segments of the Strategic Framework will be delivered in more detail. In the meantime, you're invited to join with OCF to make a difference, in any or all of the following ways:

Pray: Ask God if there are areas where you can lead in your sphere of influence, whether at work, home, or in your neighborhood.

Lead and/or assist in Bible-based fellowship at work or home: We are making it easier than ever to start a Bible-based fellowship. Even if your group is as small as two or three people, we know through God's Word that Jesus will meet you there. Experience the impact, community and accountability that so many others have experienced.

Model professional excellence: Christ-like character does not go unnoticed. When you do your job well and live your Christian life consistently, you'll gain the respect of your peers and have more opportunity to speak into their lives.

Disciple and Mentor: Pray to take the next step of beginning a discipling or mentoring relationship with someone the Lord puts on your heart. Your unique experiences provide a gold mine of wisdom that brothers and sisters around you are seeking. Sharing those life lessons with others from a biblical worldview can have great influence and effect.

Support: In addition to time and talent, your financial contributions have an immediate and lasting impact in helping Officers' Christian Fellowship advance His Kingdom on many fronts throughout the military and beyond.

As leaders in the military, we have a God-appointed opportunity to help shape both individual lives and the military culture, no matter where you are throughout your career. We desire your partnership with OCF in this effort. 🙏



Photo by Jeannie Hougnon

Guests line the deck of the expanded dining room at Spring Canyon's Hartley Holmes Lodge on Memorial Day. The dedication of the lodge included a ribbon-cutting (see next page) and lots of food, fun, and special activities over the weekend.

OCF celebrates campaign milestone during Memorial Day weekend event

By OCF Communications

With a quick clip of over-sized scissors on a red ribbon, the dedication of the expanded dining room and new classrooms in Hartley Holmes Lodge took place at OCF's Spring Canyon Retreat and Conference Center on 29 May. Over 200 people were on hand for the ceremony, which marked the seventh time a Memorial Day dedication has taken place as a part of the OCF Growing and Building Campaign.

"This HHL dining room and classroom expansion helps poise Spring Canyon to declare God's power to the next generation," said Spring Canyon Director Kim Hawthorne. "Since it started in 1962, Spring Canyon has been a Christ-centered sanctuary for many during their military journey. Spring Canyon is, and has been, a place to reconnect in the Rockies: reconnect to old friends, family, and most importantly to God."

OCF's Executive Director, Brig Gen David Warner,

USAF (Ret.), spoke of three aspects of the event: commemorate, celebrate and commit. "The weekend successfully commemorated how the Lord has blessed OCF through this campaign. We celebrated where the Lord has us as a ministry, hearing firsthand testimonies from others of the powerful ministry at Spring Canyon. And we committed ourselves to what the Lord wants to do through OCF in the future."

Former OCF Executive Director, Lt Gen Bruce



Photo by Terry Grant



Photo by Jeannie Hougnon



Photo by Terry Grant

Fister, USAF (Ret.), under whose leadership the campaign was launched, called the celebration weekend a “joyful realization of from where God has brought us and how the Lord has positioned OCF to minister to our military in the 21st century.” He added, “This, along with our executive director’s and OCF Council’s framework for the future (see pages 6-7), gives me great satisfaction and joy as I watch from afar as the Lord grows and builds it in the days ahead.”

A special retreat and activities took place over the weekend leading up to the dedication as OCF also celebrated the transition out of the active fundraising aspect of its ten-year capital campaign. A loan restructuring, coupled with a generous \$500,000 gift and ongoing donor pledges being fulfilled, will allow OCF to complete the requirements and design work, and begin construction on kitchen renovations at Spring Canyon throughout 2018.

At the Sunday evening celebration dinner, and just before a Danny Byram concert, the members of the capital campaign committee were honored and presented a memento to thank them “for their countless hours of faithful commitment and dedication to

the campaign as they sacrificially gave of their time, talents, and treasures,” said Brig Gen Warner. “Their dedication, wisdom, and efforts will significantly advance OCF’s mission for years to come. They are to be thanked for their faithful stewardship.”

Members of the capital campaign committee raised nearly thirteen million dollars to fund the planning and construction of needed new facilities, expansions, and upgrades at OCF’s two conference centers. In addition to the recent expansion project at Spring Canyon, the Hemingway Operations Complex, a waste water treatment plant, and the Veterans Memorial and Fort Shine lodges were built. Heritage House at White Sulphur Springs Conference Center in Pennsylvania was dedicated and opened for use in 2011.

The conference centers and their ministries are key resources for the spiritual development of our military men and women, and have proven to be leadership incubators for OCF in its vision to realize the military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders. This is accomplished via biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession. ✝



White Sulphur Springs photo

EXSEL interns tapped into new resources for spiritual and vocation development this year: lessons learned from the production of maple syrup.

EXSEL discipleship program yields sweet outcomes at White Sulphur Springs

By Jim and Claudia Marrs, EXSEL Discipleship Program director

A unique opportunity of developing Christ-centered servant leaders exists at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center through its EXSEL (Experience, Serve, Lead) discipleship program. EXSEL interns learn the value of selfless service while ministering to the needs of the military members and their families who visit White Sulphur Springs to experience the rest and refreshment afforded by this picturesque refuge.

The interns operate in a variety of ministry areas, including office management, culinary arts, dining services, hospitality, and facilities and maintenance. They also engage in special projects. This year, the forested Allegheny Mountains of White Sulphur Springs provided a suitable setting for the spiritual and vocational development of the EXSEL interns as they tapped into

the plentiful sugar maple trees and established a maple syrup production capability.

With minimal staff assistance, the interns researched the syrup-making process, performed cost analyses, identified and marked trees, sourced materials, and drafted building plans. They then prepared a detailed decision package, pitched their idea to senior

leadership, and launched the project upon approval. The interns participated in harvesting and milling on-site standing dead maple, oak, and locust wood, selected a suitable building site, set the corner posts, hauled shale for the foundation from the on-site quarry, and fashioned a roof of recycled sheet metal. As the walls and door of their “Sugar Shack” took shape, the wood-fired evaporator, canner, and other necessary supplies were ordered, delivered, and assembled.

Because of unusual winter weather, the maple syrup flow started early, then waned, then began again. The team had to alter their plans time and again, and faltered initially. Though discouraged, they pulled through the difficult times together. Andy Matelski volunteered to work an all-night vigil in the shack, and others followed his lead. They collected sap, tended the fire, checked the syrup density, and finally filtered, reheated, and canned the sweet results of their labors.

The twists and turns of the project flowed richly with various spiritual applications for the interns to tap into and learn from, such as during the building process for team member Lucy Birchfield: “I never pictured myself building a birdhouse, let alone a shack from the ground up. To say it was a learning experience is an understatement.” She explained that a firm foundation in Jesus Christ is necessary to withstand life’s harsh circumstances, and likened clearing away the brush for the building with “removing the thorny selfishness of our fallen human condition” and emphasized that it’s not done in “our own strength.” Lucy associated the interns’ building experience with Psalm 127:1, “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”

When the interns were digging the holes for the foundational corner locust poles that define and support the shack, they encountered an obstinate rock, which confounded the tractor-mounted auger. The hole had to be dug deeper or that pole would not serve its intended purpose. Digging by hand while lying on the cold, muddy ground, EXSEL intern Emma O’Dea finally managed to unearth the obstruction. To her surprise, the rock itself did not look as big as it seemed while trying to remove it from the hard earth—a ready metaphor for Christian obedience to the teachings of Christ, often difficult but always a joy once accomplished.

Emma spoke of the vocational lessons learned while building the shack in the sometimes-difficult weather conditions, “but I think the biggest and most important...were spiritual and personal lessons. I know that I have grown a lot because of this. It has forced me to grow and change in ways I never thought possible—how to work with others, how to communicate in a team, how to love others even when the going gets tough.” Intern Rachel Gauthier referenced 1 Corinthians 12, explaining it this way, “Like the body of Christ, each of us had our own skills we brought to the table that were beneficial in completing our goal. There isn’t



one member, or body part, that is more important than others; all are significant to producing syrup, and in completing the work of Christ.”

Within the context of supporting White Sulphur Springs’ mission to the military, the interns engage purposefully in experiencing Jesus Christ’s life-changing power through the daily disciplines of reading, hearing, and memorizing God’s Word, prayer, constructive silence, meditation, and conveying thankfulness to their Creator. They are encouraged to practice personal holiness and to purpose in their hearts to trust and obey God, confessing their failings, receiving His grace and mercy, extending that grace and mercy to those around them, and loving others with a pure heart, clear conscience, and sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5). Living in close community peels off layers of superficiality and exposes rough edges that, in turn, call for humility so they may love one another as our Lord Jesus teaches.

The infrastructure for this groundbreaking endeavor is now firmly in place. The labors of this year’s interns will, with God’s blessing, yield much sweet fruit as future classes of EXSEL interns pick up the baton. The motto the interns selected to grace the bottles of finished syrup? “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8).

As they Experience, Serve, and Lead here at White Sulphur Springs, the EXSEL Discipleship interns are helping military members and their families realize the restoration needed in these challenging times. ✨

ABOUT JIM & CLAUDIA

Married for thirty-seven years, Jim and Claudia serve together at White Sulphur Springs. Jim is a retired lieutenant colonel who served in the Air Force for thirty-three years, while Claudia is a veteran homeschool mom. They have five children (two of whom are veterans, one of whom is married to a veteran) and four grandchildren.



USNA OCF photo

Becoming an effective Christ-like military leader requires selflessness and sacrifice. Spring break mission trips can aid cadets and midshipmen toward an aspect of developing those skills.

Becoming a Christ-like military leader first starts with thinking of others

By OCF Communications Department

One aspect of OCF's multi-faceted ministry efforts takes place on a daily basis among young men and women attending our nation's military service academies. Four field staff couples provide OCF presence at those strategic locations, where their work is all about engaging future military leaders in biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service.

Each spring, one particular path toward shaping servant leader skills goes off-road through Third World settings via mission trips. By surrendering their spring break of relaxation to instead labor for the impoverished, the mission field experiences help cadets and midshipmen hone skills of selflessness and sacrifice that are essential to becoming effective Christ-like military leaders.

However, those future leaders didn't have to leave the country to see selflessness and sacrifice lived out consistently on a daily basis. It was in their own academic backyards, lived out by the OCF field staff couples serving them for God. Transitions recently took place at the U.S. Military Academy with the departure of LTC Tom and Cheri Austin, USA (Ret.), and the arrival of LTC Colin and Amy Wooten, USA (Ret.). Meanwhile, at the

U.S. Naval Academy, the retirement of CDR Bryan and Sherri Burt, USN (Ret.), brought in CAPT James and Juli Baca, USNR.

The lion's share of the ministry efforts at USMA took place in the Fellowship House, located a few blocks from the entrance to West Point. Since its purchase in 1999, thousands of cadets and families have been fortified by Bible studies, mentoring, and various events, as well as the always-bustling ministry of hospitality.

Tom and Cheri Austin were recently interviewed for **COMMAND** about their experiences operating the Fellowship House, serving West Point cadets, and serving with them in the mission field since the summer of 2009.

Tell us a bit about your time serving at USMA OCF.

Tom Austin: It has been both rewarding and challenging. Half the time you don't feel adequate enough to do it. This job is unique in that it's a combination of doing campus ministry and being a hospitality house to cadets, their parents, relatives, and friends.

Cheri Austin: We had a motto when we came here that we would wear out, not rust out, in lives poured out for Christ as a drink offering, and trusting Him that He would let us know when it was time to leave.

Tell us a bit about Fellowship House.

Tom: There are lots of cadets, lots of activities—the house and barn are always in use. It was purchased during Mike and Peggy Tesdahl's tenure. Barry and Barb Willey went to leaps and bounds to furnish it. Since we came onboard, the kitchen was renovated to support the hundreds of meals we provided. We repainted the house, which first involved difficult and special challenges of having to remove the lead-based paint. The driveway was repaved and the barn restained. And now the basement is no longer leaking.

Give us a few snapshots of your work at USMA OCF Fellowship House.

House and grounds are necessary, concurrent tasks—cutting the lawn, edging, laundry, fixing the things that always break in a sixty-year-old house. But those are secondary to ministry. It's all about the relationships. For the recent USMA graduation, guests started arriving for what was seven solid days of hospitality and meals before the last ones left.

Why these mission trips?

It's a blessing to do them. Cadets give up their spring break of vacation or relaxation to help others. They go with a noble idea, but the opportunities have them returning having been blessed by what they received verses what they gave.

Who all is involved in these mission trips?

We have those from various faith backgrounds,

including Baptist and Catholic, with the group becoming a wide representation involving OCF, Youth With a Mission (YWAM), and The Navigators. We work with Shawn and Marie Hatch, OCFers who work with The Navigators, and they're a real blessing. In addition to the spring mission trips, we partner with them for the fall retreat and the Army-Navy banquet.

Tell us a bit about your trips.

First of all, cadets are in charge of the trip, so leadership development opportunities applicable to their military lives are plentiful. Forty-one of us went this year to the Dominican Republic and we built two houses and also worked at an orphanage and a leper center. It's hard work, but the cadets have a great attitude.

What were you hoping the cadets would learn?

A number of things, such as loving one another, acts of service, and presenting "your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God" (Romans 12:1). Also, to learn to work together as a team for a common goal, mature them in their faith, and provide a sense of biblical worldview—why we do the things we do.

How do these trips teach leadership and service to your cadets?

Leadership is servanthood. The best, true leaders are humble, have a servant's heart, and think first of those they lead before they think of themselves. It's all about caring for your soldiers, to think of others better than yourself. Like it says in Philippians 2:3, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

How did the mission trips change them?

It had a huge impact on the kids by being convicted a little bit in seeing God's world and to become less selfish. It was enjoyable to watch the cadets interact with others, to serve those who have nothing but share everything they have, such as bringing us sweet breads or coffee. As a result, often times cadets come back immediately wanting to become a world missionary, and we've had cadets who leave West Point temporarily or even permanently. I encourage them to stay in and serve in this mission field, and to make sure it's God's timing, not theirs.

What's next for you?

We're moving to South Carolina. We will use that eventually as a hub for travels as OCF associate field staff. We'll be traveling quite a bit: to academies, OCF field staff locations, various military posts and bases—and visit our grads—to pray for others and provide pastoral care. 🙏



USAFA OCF photo

Spiritual commissioning ceremonies, such as this 2016 one for newly commissioned officers attending USAFA OCF, are poignant send-offs for the new leaders entering the operational military.

Congratulations, Class of 2017 newly commissioned officers

Reaching our next generation of military leaders at our nation's service academies and college ROTCs for Jesus Christ, one person at a time. That's the eternal investment faithful OCF field staff reps, their teams, and local leaders sow into the lives of young men and women who attend their OCF activities. Pray daily for the new leaders listed below, who are OCF members, those attending OCF activities, or had signed up as an OCF member who would commission in 2017.

Baylor University

*2d Lt Catherine Weeden, USAF

Belmont University

2LT Audrey Arroyo, USA

California State University, Fresno

2d Lt Cory Nelson, USAF

Cedarville University

*2d Lt James Cohrs, USAF

Chaplain School

LT Derek Vande Slunt, USN

Citadel

2d Lt Marlan Campbell, USAF

East Carolina University

2LT Gabriel Antonio Abreu, USA

Florida State University

2LT Kyle Radcliffe, USA
2LT Javier Delgado, USA
2d Lt Todd Root, USAF

George Mason University

2LT Joy Arakelian, USA

Grand Valley State University

2LT Zachary Plotzke, USA

Harvard University

ESN Lauren Mandaville, USN

Indiana Wesleyan University

2LT McKinzie Horoho, USA

Liberty University

2LT Benjamin Solem, USA
2LT Jonathan Hixson, USA
2LT Alec Gough, USA

2LT Robert Moretz, USA
2LT Grant McMains, USA
2d Lt Phillip Walker, USAF

Marquette University

ENS Alexandra Dahnke, USN

North Carolina State University

2ndLt Andrew Thompson, USMC

**Officer Candidate School/
Officer Training School**

2d Lt Katherine Little, USAF

The Ohio State University

2LT Sarah Demetry, USA
2d Lt Andrew Goldin, USAF
2d Lt Logan Payne, USAF
ENS Gabrielle Mancy, USN
2LT David Ruckman USA
2d Lt Shane Work, USAF
ENS Chelsea Nemeth, USN

Ohio University

2d Lt Lindsay-Rae Bean, USAF
2d Lt Lauryn Frumkin, USAF

Prairie View A&M University

2LT Garrison Stribling, USA

Rochester Institute of Technology

2LT Jennifer Trainor, USA

St John's University

2LT Jacob Schwanz, USA
2LT Virginia Todd, USA

St Joseph's University, Philadelphia

2d Lt Russell Ridsen, USAF

Tennessee Tech University

2LT Dylon Bowman, USA
2LT Matthew Cormier, USA
2LT Chelsearae Hancock, USA
2LT Nicholas Kaczmarek, USA
2LT Tyler Langford, USA
2LT Jaehyeon Lee, USA
2LT William Nakamoto, USA
2LT Lee Porter, USA
2LT Joseph Potter, USA
2LT Joshua Price, USA
2LT Ellen Schultz, USA

Texas A&M University

2LT Victoria Tobitt, USA
2LT Graham Guillory, USA
2LT Chris Larson, USA

United States Coast Guard Academy

ENS Abigail Culp, USCG
ENS Sarah Cummings, USCG
ENS Luke Dewhirst, USCG
ENS Jon Dillard, USCG
ENS Joshua DuBois, USCG
ENS John Dunaway, USCG
ENS Sulli Edwards, USCG
ENS Brendan Flynn, USCG

ENS John Gulick, USCG
ENS Andrew Heesacker, USCG
ENS Keith Holmes, USCG
ENS Savannah Kuntz, USCG
ENS Kyle Levy, USCG
ENS Josh Lipp, USCG
ENS Victoria Mock, USCG
ENS Nick Paisker, USCG
ENS Anna Ramsey, USCG
ENS Peter Reeve, USCG
ENS Meagen Witham, USCG

United States Air Force Academy

2d Lt Ryan Andrieux, USAF
2d Lt Angela Curtis, USAF
2d Lt John Deaton, USAF
2d Lt Rachel Eaton, USAF
2d Lt Leah Gates, USAF
2d Lt Zach Gerlach, USAF
2d Lt Drew Gibson, USAF
2d Lt August Hein, USAF
2d Lt Kaitlyn Kent, USAF
2d Lt Traeger Kviton, USAF
2d Lt Amanda Ley, USAF
2d Lt Kirsten Mattson, USAF
2d Lt Andrew Mayerchak, USAF
2d Lt Holly Martin, USAF
2d Lt Ciarra McCarthy, USAF
2d Lt Nicholas Moll, USAF
2d Lt Hanson Oxford, USAF
2d Lt Christil Pasion, USAF
2d Lt Jesse Quandt, USAF
2d Lt Brianna Ramey, USAF
2d Lt Amelia Roddenberry, USAF
2d Lt Heath Rohrer, USAF
2d Lt Bradford Rupert, USAF
2d Lt Allison Schwartz, USAF
2d Lt Jordan Shields, USAF
2d Lt Timothy Smith, USAF
2d Lt Philip Strunk, USAF
2d Lt Lance Torres, USAF
2d Lt Darian Titus, USAF
2d Lt Kenneth Tomlinson, USAF
2d Lt Robert Uebelacker, USAF
2d Lt Christopher Wilson, USAF
2d Lt Cindy Yie, USAF
2d Lt Tori Zinkus, USAF

United States Military Academy

2LT Casey Batley, USA
2LT Preston Bentley, USA.
2LT Christopher Boyle, USA
2LT Austin Child, USA
2LT Robert Cobb, USA

2LT Quinn Dougherty, USA
2LT Taylor Endres, USA
2LT Margaret Goode, USA
2LT Jack Hadley, USA
2LT Joshua Kay, USA
2LT Patrick McCarron, USA
2LT James Negley, USA
2LT Kellen Perez, USA
2LT Brian Quinn, USA
2LT Daniel Reape, USA
2LT Joshua Reed, USA
2LT Colton Skeen, USA
2LT Terrence Thomas, USA
2LT Nathan Townsend, USA
2LT Jacob Walters, USA
2LT Beau Webb, USA
2LT Joyce Wu, USA

United States Naval Academy

ENS Taylor Adams, USN
ENS Garrett Bradley, USN
ENS Yongsung Cho, USN
2ndLt Daniel Chow, USMC
ENS Andrew Jevitt, USN
ENS David Larkin, USN
2ndLt Stephanie Lee, USMC
ENS Will McMaster, USN
ENS Madina Petashvili, USN
ENS Drake Sadler, USN
ENS Cade Warlick, USN
ENS James Yang, USN
ENS Kaylyn Young, USN
ENS Jessica Yri, USN

University of Colorado

*2d Lt Sara Sawyer, USAF

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

2LT Kyle Osborne, USA
2LT Cedric Holland, USA

University of Illinois

*2d Lt Christopher Kim, USAF

University of Maryland, College Park

2d Lt Carlton Hassell Jr., USAFR

University of Minnesota

*2LT Caleb Spore, USA

University of North Carolina, Greensboro

2d Lt Nathaniel Lewis, USAF

University of North Dakota

2d Lt Robert Goebel, USAF

University of Saint Thomas

2d Lt Molly Amundson, USAFR

University of Wisconsin

2LT Monica Weltzien, USA

Virginia Tech

2LT Benjamin Hobson, USA
2ndLt Jacob Perry, USMC
2LT Andrew Schoka, USA
2d Lt Michael Schoka, USAF

Wheaton College

2LT Timothy Henry, USA

Various Universities

*2d Lt Jonathon Aguilar, USAFR
2d Lt Trent Alsin, USAF
*2d Lt Michael Bremer, USAF
2d Lt Jennifer Carson, ANG
2d Lt Krysta Coble, USAF
2d Lt Andrew Groff, USAF
2d Lt Bryan Lietzke, USAF
2d Lt Gus Long, USAF
*2d Lt Anthony Maskarina, USAFR
2d Lt Mick McNaughton, USAF
2d Lt Mitch Mickley, USAF
*ENS Brandon Reed, USCG
*Capt Heather Slawson, USAF
2d Lt Joshua Speziale, USAF
*1st Lt Matthew Spurgeon, USAF
*2d Lt Michael Wisniewski, USAFR
2d Lt Rachael Zoeller, USAF

**Late 2016 graduate*



OCF/Valor photo



Photo by Christian Rainbolt



Photo by Bob Holthouse

Eastern OCF/VALOR Retreat

TOP: Combine twenty-nine cadets with “scrumptious and abundant” food, eye-catching intro videos, free time to play football on a frozen lawn, and interactions with active duty and retired military in conversation and panels. Add in rich teaching from God’s word and plenty of prayer time. The result? Another Eastern OCF/Valor ROTC retreat where cadets were encouraged and equipped in their upcoming careers by godly military men and women who have served ahead of the them.

NW valor retreat

ABOVE LEFT: Retired U.S. Coast Guard Commander Vic Primeaux (right) and former Army officer Jeremy Byram hosted an of-

ficer panel for cadets and mids attending the Northwest Regional ROTC retreat outside of Seattle. The joint ministry partnership of OCF with Valor gave the future military leaders a chance to connect with one another and glean insight from leaders who have modeled lives of faith and profession.

Midwest

ABOVE RIGHT: “God moved mightily throughout the weekend—in Hous Waring’s talks, the seminars, and in the discussions that happened,” reports Bob Holthouse of the Midwest OCF/VALOR Retreat in Iowa earlier this year. More than eighty students and leaders participated in the joint ministry effort of Valor and OCF that was “a wonderful time together, all centering on God.”



Photo by Tom Schmidt



Photo by Ben Collins



Photo by Larry Simpson

Fort Bragg OCF

TOP: The weekly study with junior officers starts with a meal, followed by prayer, and then a Bible study from the book of Matthew. Visiting OCF Field Operations Director Tom Schmidt led a follow-up study concerning the failed attempts of the Jewish leaders and Pilate trying to contain Jesus with worldly means. Tom later gathered with leaders and longtime OCFers who provided him with essential input of what OCF is doing there and what OCF is planning with its new strategic efforts.

Ramstein Air Force Base OCF

ABOVE LEFT: This OCF small group fellowship in Germany is a varied mix—Army and Air Force officers, veterans, and DoD civil-

ians—who enjoy weekly in-depth inductive Bible studies led by 1LT Mac and Heidi Mosher, USA. Their fellowship time includes taking advantage of interesting cultural experiences, such as this winter hike to Wegelnburg Castle, near Schönau, Germany.

Puget Sound

ABOVE RIGHT: There are Bible studies, including monthly meetings at Everett Naval Station, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and Coast Guard Base Seattle. Retreats toward shaping spiritually resilient marriages, and an even an annual half-marathon fundraiser are some of the other ministry activities that take place as well in the Pacific Northwest.



OCF Puget Sound photo

Helping leaders live out lives of faith

By OCF Communications Department

If you've ever wondered what Officers' Christian Fellowship does, here's one snapshot from the album showing God's kingdom work through OCF: Puget Sound & OCF Family Outreach.

Faithfulness in spiritual disciplines, committing to honor Christ with our whole lives—those are concepts Larry and Bobbie Simpson desire to pass on through OCF Bible studies, mentoring and discipleship, marriage classes, and in Spiritually Smart Family conferences.

OCF at Puget Sound; OCF Family Outreach

Who: Colonel Larry and Bobbie Simpson, USAF (Ret.), OCF Field Staff reps

How long there: Since 2006

Special background: Larry and Bobbie wrote and facilitate OCF's Spiritually Smart Family conferences/retreats. Larry served twenty-seven years in the Air Force, and has degrees in psychology and counselor education, and a Christian Studies Certificate and an MA. Bobbie has a BA and a Master's in Education, taught sixteen years

in public schools, and led women's ministry, Bible teaching and discipling at various chapels and churches.

What's your key motivation in ministering to the military community?

We love military servicemen and women. If you ask them what they want out of life, it's Christian growth, being an effective military leader, and success as a spouse and parent. We are passionate about helping marriages go the distance victoriously, privileged to bring the Good News of hope and a refreshed walk with God in spite of their circumstances.

Why is OCF's ministry in the Pacific Northwest/or Puget Sound so important?

Daily we see Christian leaders prioritizing career and promotion over the needs of home and family. Until there's a more "convenient" time, faith takes a back seat. There is broken trust, abandoned children, and a spirit of deceit that says, "Christ wants me to be happy. It is okay for me to leave my family." We're each called by Christ to live out our faith

and to help others do likewise, to correct, rebuke, teach, encourage with patience, and engage leaders who boldly and courageously live for Christ and help others do the same.

How we facilitate OCF ministry:

- Local OCF groups, meeting Sunday, Tuesday–Thursday evenings (Joint Base Lewis McChord, NAS Whidbey Island, Naval Base Kitsap, Naval Station Everett, Seattle Coast Guard Base)
- JBLM McChord Field Thursday morning leaders' devotions (from *Leader, Draw Near* devotional book)
- Monthly OCF gatherings at JBLM
- Wednesday ladies' Bible study at Naval Base Kitsap
- OCF presence Thursdays at PWOC
- Board members of "The Refuge," a Pacific Northwest Christian Retreat Center
- *Pray, Discover, Obey* shared facilitation for OCF groups, leader training
- Weekly commitments to couples and/or one-on-one mentoring and discipling
- Weekly attendance at an established OCF group that encourages, supports, and prays for us 🙏

COMMAND®

VOL. 66, NO. 2, SUMMER 2017

Publisher Officers' Christian Fellowship
OCF Executive Director Brig Gen David Warner, USAF (Ret.)
Director of Stewardship CAPT R. Christopher Blake, JAGC, USN (Ret.)
Managing Editor Karen Fliedner
Senior Designer Josh Jackson

COMMAND strives to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ in the U.S. Armed Forces by informing readers about His work through people and events related to Officers' Christian Fellowship, teaching them how to integrate Christian faith into family, professional and community life, and encouraging and inspiring them to minister effectively in the military society.

Comments, questions, or subscription changes

We welcome your feedback, and we're happy to assist with any subscription or address changes. Contact us at:
 3784 S. Inca Street, Englewood, CO 80110
 comms@ocfusa.org or 800-424-1984.

Write for us

If you have an idea for an article, or if you would like to work with our editors on a variety of topics relevant to the OCF audience, contact Managing Editor Karen Fliedner:
 karen.fliedner@ocfusa.org.

Authors are not paid for articles published. By submitting articles, e-mail, photos, and other materials to Officers' Christian Fellowship, you agree that the materials submitted become the property of OCF and will not be returned, and you agree that OCF has been granted the non-exclusive rights to use and/or reproduce the materials in any manner and for any purpose. Our agreement is made in Colorado and controlled by Colorado law.

Permissions

COMMAND grants permission for any original article (not a reprint) to be photocopied for use in a church, classroom, or other similar fellowship group setting provided that no more than 250 copies are made, all copies are distributed for free, and COMMAND or OCF are listed as the source.

©2017. All rights reserved.

COMMAND is published seasonally (Spring, Summer, Fall) by Officers' Christian Fellowship. Nonprofit postage paid at Englewood, Colorado, and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to COMMAND at 3784 S. Inca Street, Englewood, CO 80110-3405.

Articles and other items published in COMMAND do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Officers' Christian Fellowship of the United States of America, its governing council, staff, or of the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

COMMAND is a registered trademark of Officers' Christian Fellowship of the United States of America. All rights reserved.

COMMAND
 (UPS 014-736/ISSN 0010-2474). Title © U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (Ser. No 76-136, 392/Int. class 016). First use 9-0-1957.

Member:

Evangelical Press Association
 Combined Federal Campaign #10531



Lieutenant Hayley Koval
 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Came to OCF: As a "swab" the summer of 2004 when I reported in to the Coast Guard Academy and met Major Jim and Carolyn Groves, USAF (Ret.).

Why OCF: I found it to be a solid Christian community that dug deeply into God's Word, challenged me to grow, gave me opportunities to serve, and it extended beyond the Academy into the fleet. I have repeatedly used the OCF website to find communities where I've been stationed across the U.S. and have been abundantly blessed by those with whom I've fellowshiped.

Why a military life: My parents homeschooled my siblings and me with the goal of service to the Lord and other people. And the military offered both plus the added benefits of discipline, structure, financial stability and travel!

What's on your bucket list: Backpacking in New Zealand! Driving the 1965 Chevy Chevelle convertible that my dad, brother and I have been restoring for a while.

Best advice given you: Do not worry! A sovereign God who loves you is in control.

Most memorable places visited:

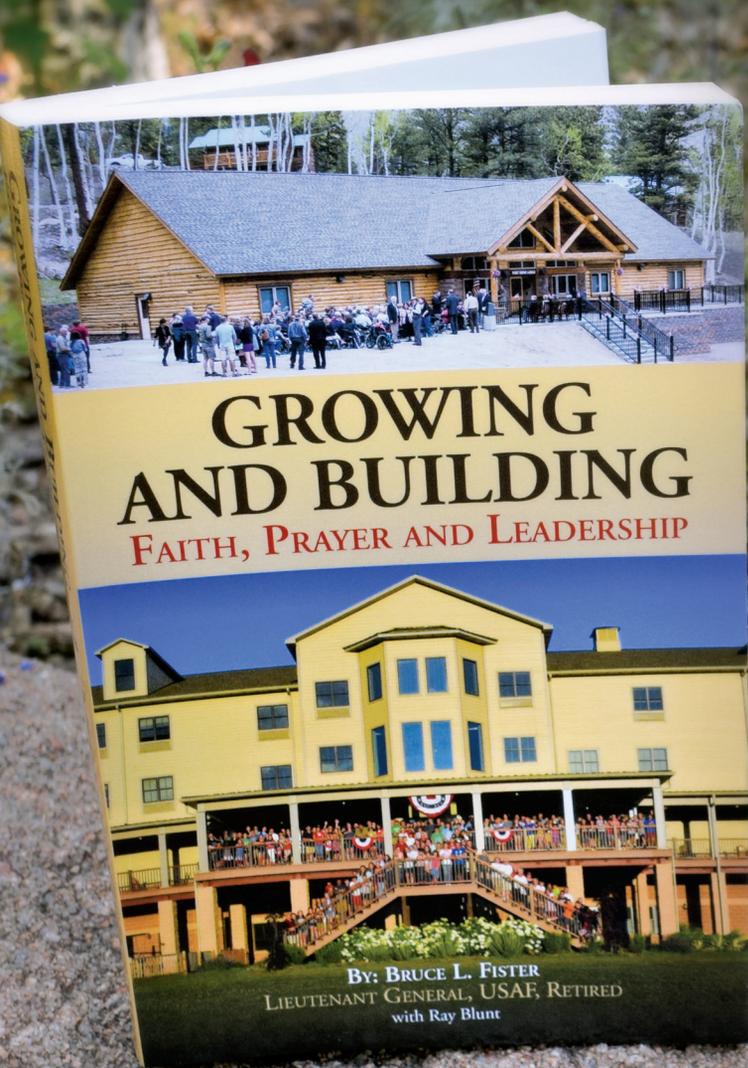
Colorado and the West in general. We took a lot of family camping road trips when I was a kid and all that exposure to the great outdoors gave me a love of mountains and being outside!

What is your key to perseverance:

Accountability! Knowing that I have other people praying for me, encouraging me, and ultimately expecting a level of performance from me keeps me going when I'd rather give up. Oh, to hear "Well done thou good and faithful servant!"

Life Bible verses:

Proverbs 3:5-6 and 1 Thessalonians 2:8, "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." As members of God's family, we are called to live in community and belong to each other, with the claim of familial entitlement on our time, emotions and resources.



A story of how God grew and built a man's faith

Former OCF executive director, Lt Gen Bruce Fister, USAF (Ret.), has published "Growing and Building: Faith, Prayer and Leadership," a book chronicling his journey of faith as the fourth OCF executive director by taking God at His word and choosing to believe in it.

*For more information or to purchase
a copy of the book, visit:*

growingandbuilding.com