



Christian perspectives on life in the military

# COMMAND<sup>®</sup>

SPRING 2018

Vol. 67 • No. 1 • \$5.00

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## COVER STORY

TO BE A LEADER GOD CAN  
USE, THREE THINGS MUST BE  
ANSWERED: WHERE WILL YOU PUT  
YOUR FAITH? IS YOUR IDENTITY  
SECURE? ARE YOU READY FOR  
THE BATTLE? 14



Building Christian military leaders, families, fellowships...*for a lifetime*



# Build up your faith muscle

In 1991 Lori and I were at Maxwell AFB while I attended the Air Command and Staff College. Having always enjoyed social activities, I quickly engaged as social chairman for my section and in other committees and groups. The list was quite long.



**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](http://ocfusa.org/find)

Attend an OCF conference center:

**White Sulphur Springs:**  
[whitesulphur-springs.org](http://whitesulphur-springs.org)

**Spring Canyon:**  
[springcanyon.org](http://springcanyon.org)

Each quarter the squadron commander awarded points going toward the coveted title of Distinguished Graduate. At the end of the first quarter, while others involved in the same activities were given points, I was denied. The second quarter came and went with the same results.

Encountering the squadron commander sometime later, I quickly realized that there was something about me he didn't like. What should I do—confront him? Inform leadership of his practices? But after good counsel and much prayer, what I did do was pray—for him and for me. I would remain loyal to the school's mission, and after some reflection, I vowed to continue doing exactly what I was doing. Shortly thereafter, that squadron commander received a short-notice assignment and was gone in a few weeks. The new squadron commander knew me from working on several of his projects and ended up giving me enough points for Distinguished Graduate—even surprising me with the Squadron Officership Award for displaying humility in leadership.

Though it's a seemingly benign scenario of a school environment involving social activities, it taught me about keeping faith with what I believed the Lord wanted me to do in that situation—to keep my eyes trained on Him and not the world as represented by my first squadron commander.

OCF recently launched the Integrated Faith Project. The intent of this flagship program, whose prime architect is OCF Director of Field Operations Tom Schmidt, is to put members on a sound path of interpreting their faith in Christ while serving in the critical domains of the military. Piloted at the Eastern OCF Leaders Retreat in late January at OCF's White Sulphur Springs, the IF Project is an equipping resource video and discussion series geared toward establishing a framework for further development of one's faith muscle as they wrestle with the integration of faith and profession. The IF Project came out of what was repeatedly expressed by OCFers in a survey conducted last year by OCF Marketing Director Susan Wallis. Members are asking for the appropriate "how-tos" of living out their Christian faith in today's military culture (see page 18 for more information).

At the end of the conference, after leading more than 70 participants through the IF Project's four domains (integrating your faith internally, in your


family, community, and profession), we military types gathered for our Hotwash and After-Action report. During our discussion, a woman approached us in obedience to the Lord's leading and asked to share her husband's faith journey.

Both Christians, she and her husband are attending an advanced education program. Though not OCF members and never having been to White Sulphur Springs, it was put on their hearts to visit this specific weekend—unaware of the conference's program. She spoke of her husband being told by his commanding colonel to "keep his religion to himself." Months later, an allegation made against this Christian officer resulted in a difficult 5-month investigation. Yet, he kept his faith with his identity in Christ and maintained his loyalty to the mission—and even to his boss. Though eventually exonerated, his O6-boss told him to not request returning to the program.

With tears in her eyes, she informed us they are not only returning to his duty station, but her husband also will be taking the colonel's place! That's a powerful example of integrating one's faith into all aspects of life, not just profession, and putting total trust in the Lord. That's exactly what OCF hopes to replicate through the IF Project.

A second resource OCF also recently released is the OCF Crosspoint podcast that shares stories of "military life at the intersection of faith, family, and profession." Some episodes comprise first-hand accounts of men and women who've had their faith challenged or tested in the crucible of difficult, sometimes life-threatening situations. God will be glorified in podcast episodes, future issues of COMMAND magazine, on the OCF website, and in other communications by the amazing testimonies of His faithfulness in delivering His people through the storms of life.

What's your story? Perhaps you've had to develop your faith muscle—and maybe your story doesn't have a happy ending. Regardless of the trial, suffering, or outcome, keep your faith grounded in your love for the Lord and believe that in the midst of your refinement, the Lord is continuing to shape you for His purposes.

As OCF continues to exhort the necessity to integrate your faith into all aspects of your life, we pray that you'll build up your faith muscle through your love for and relationship with Christ. It's a privilege and honor to share this journey with you! 



USNA OCF photo

## USNA OCF

USCGA, USNA, USMMA Martin Luther King weekend retreat, White Sulphur Springs: In the mid-90s, VADM Dean Lee, USCG (Ret.), was very impactful. It can be difficult, at times, to relate certain messages about faith to the military profession and lifestyle. Hearing from a man with decades of experience in our kind of environment was eye-opening."

James & Juli Baca // OCF Field Staff

## USCGA OCF

Carl & Christy Crabtree // OCF Field Staff

### VADM Lee shares insights on living out one's faith

Cadets attending the USCGA, USNA, USMMA Martin Luther King weekend retreat were captivated as VADM Dean Lee, USCG (Ret.), gave them real examples of walking his faith, not giving into fear, not being offensive nor proselytizing, but a

light for Christ—loving others. He shared sea stories that showed how to be ready to share the gospel and to look for opportunities. At an extra session on romantic relationships that was voluntary, almost all the cadets showed up to it. Dating, finding a mate, and marriage are key subjects on the minds of cadets. This discussion and small group time emphasized putting Christ first in all areas of our lives, particularly in dating and marriages. This can derail many cadets and flag officers.

## USMA OCF

Colin & Amy Wooten // OCF Field Staff

### Good turnout for 69th OCF Army-Navy Banquet

With James and Juli Baca of USNA OCF, we hosted the 69th Annual OCF Army-Navy Banquet after the big game in December. Including 18 students from the Valley Forge Military Academy led by

*Continued on Next Page*



CAPT Jerry Hale, USCG (Ret.), there were 145 attendees. Most tables had a mix of USMA, USNA, and VFMA, which enabled excellent fellowship, and after dinner several groups of VFMA cadets were talking to USMA and USNA students. Perhaps these interactions will lead to future involvement in OCF if they end up attending one of the academies or ROTC. Since USNA and USMA stayed at the same hotel this year, we had a combined Sunday church service in one of the hotel's meeting spaces on Sunday. Both the USMA Cadet in Charge and USNA OCF President gave short testimonies. Cadet Steele Sessions talked about how USMA's challenges had helped him trust and grow in Jesus, while Midshipman Zachary Tyra shared the gospel. Both were inspiring!

## USAFA OCF

Steve & Rita Wade // OCF Field Staff

### Praise God for ministry, encouragement, fellowship

The USAFA ministry team couples are God's blessing to this ministry. I'm continually thankful for their love for the Lord, their love and sacrifice for the cadets, and their wise biblical teaching and mentoring. Each Monday there are 6 topical groups offered. Cadets choose one and stay with that group for six weeks, the groups led by 12 of our upper class cadets with ministry team mentors for each! With cadets and ministry team, we are a family of about 90+ people each week. Cadets are encouraged and motivated to walk, grow, and serve in Christ. Fellowship and community are built for a

lifetime, and new people brought to hear about Jesus and see the love of the brethren. They are very motivated to be together on Monday nights. Praise God for His team here at USAFA!

## Pensacola OCF

Chet & Michelle Arnold // OCF Field Staff

### Group digs into 2 Samuel

We worked our way through Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles on Wednesday nights, specifically one night looking at 2 Samuel 7 and the Davidic Covenant. The central point of the message addresses how small our views are and how large God's vision is. In short, the prophet Nathan tells David to go ahead with his plans to build a temple for Yahweh—a vision to do the same thing that every

## BIRTHS

**Robert Arthur Maddock**, born 24 July 2017, son of **LCDR Erik and Nicole Maddock, USNR**, Sergeant Bluff, IA.

**Evelyn Rose Maynor**, born 11 October 2017, daughter of **LCDR Jesse and Shannon Maynor, USN**, Santa Rita, Guam.

## WEDDINGS

**Cadet Levi Jackson, AROTC**, married **2d Lt Jessica Lyn Falk, USAF**, 16 December 2017. Their home is Lubbock, TX.

**CPT Edward Major III, USA**, married **Danielle Davidson**, 22 October 2017. Their home is Midland Park, NJ.

**ENS Meagen Witham, USCG**, married **ENS Joshua Lipp, USCG**, 19 May 2017. Their home is Wilmington, NC.

## TAPS

**Sue Ash**, 2 December 2017, wife of **LTC Robert W. Ash, USA (Ret.)**, Chesapeake, VA.

**Maj Dick Bettie, USMC (Ret.)**, 21 January 2018, husband of **Liz Bettie**, Fort Worth, TX.

**Inez Bowman**, 4 August 2017,

Springfield, MO.

**Dottie Cole**, 19 November 2017, wife of **MG Thomas Cole, USA (Ret.)**, Olympia, WA.

**Inge Jayne**, 20 July 2017, wife of **COL Ken Jayne Jr., USA (Ret.)**, Houston, TX.

**Beverly MacMasters**, 14 December 2017, Northglenn, CO.

**Col Nimrod McNair Jr., USAF (Ret.)**, 12 September 2017, husband of **Delysia McNair**, Stone Mountain, GA.

**Deena Mills**, 21 December 2017, wife of **Lt Col Dean Mills, USAF (Ret.)**, Colorado Springs, CO.

**Henrianna Smith**, 5 January 2018, wife of **COL Carl Smith, USA (Ret.)**, Oak Harbor, WA.

## 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 OCF.

## HONOR

**2LT Tyger Tuff Lyons, USA**  
By Ms. Crystal Lyons

**Alan Leonard**

By Mr. Canon Maggi

**CAPT Gregory Sandway, USN**  
By Mrs. Gregory Sandway

**CDR George Teuton, USCG (Ret.)**  
By CAPT & Mrs. Larry Olson, USCG (Ret.)

**CDR Richard Zahn, USNR (Ret.)**  
By Ms. Barbara Kronewitter

**COL Aaron Zook Jr., USA (Ret.)**  
By Mr. Toby Zielinski

**COL James & Jeannie Hougnon, USA (Ret.)**  
By SFC Joy Hougnon, USA

**Col Larry Simpson, USAF (Ret.)**  
By Mr. Marc Worthley

**Dr. Martin Carlisle**  
By Mr. Reagan Mullin

**Gary & Frances Sexton**  
By CPT Colin Sexton, USA

**Grayson Alexander Chang**  
By Ms. Kathryn Yu Lee

**LTC Don Snow, USA (Ret.)**  
By LTC Richard Irish, USA (Ret.)

**Jim Barrack**

By COL & Mrs. Gregory Barrack, USA

**Joshua & Lindsey Bowen**  
By Ms. Susan Bowen

**Joshua Rice**  
By Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Malone

**LTC Tom Austin IV, USA (Ret.)**  
By 2LT John Hadley, USA

**Ralph Phillips**  
By LtCol Paul Gillikin, USMC

**The Houston Waring Family**  
By Maj Jason Lee, USAF

**USMA Class of 1978**  
By COL & Mrs. Kim Kadesch, USA

**Vietnam War Air Force Officers**  
By Mr. C. Joe Sturz

**MEMORIAL**  
**MG Robert Buker, USA (Ret.)**  
By Mrs. Ethel Buker  
By Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Wade Jr.  
By Mr. & Mrs. Vaughn Cornele  
By Mr. Dexter Ricker  
By Mr. Ji Yoo  
By Ms. Judy Erickson  
By Ms. Lisa Kelley  
By United States Sugar Corporation  
By Ms. Elaine Wood & Mr. Mike Irey  
By COL & Mrs. James Meredith, USA (Ret.)



other king in the Ancient Near East did in building a temple to their gods. But Nathan later receives a different message from God: a temple would be built in Jerusalem, but not by David. God's vision for David was larger; He would establish David's dynasty forever in Jesus, plans that David could not fully appreciate until he graduated to heaven. The message for us: we may have grand plans that look incredible from a human point of view, but amount to piling rocks upon rocks. Like David, we need to be ready to hear "No!" from God and then do what He commands. Several in the group have since told us how that passage applied to what's going on in their lives as they struggle to understand their circumstances from God's perspective.

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*OCF Pensacola photo*

Mick & MJ McNaughton host an OCF group in their home onboard NAS Pensacola. No sooner did they open their doors than they had a full house. Most of those who attend were not active in OCF Pensacola until the McNaughtons opened their home.

#### **1LT Jonathan Shine, USA**

By COL William Burke, USAR (Ret.)  
By Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yaap

#### **Al Thacker**

By USNA Class of 1968

#### **Andrew Baer**

By COL & Mrs. Robert Baer, USA  
By Ms. Martha Johnson  
By CW5 & Mrs. Alfred Rice, USA (Ret.)  
By Mr. & Mrs. John Peace  
By Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wilhelm  
By Mrs. Lenore Banks

#### **Betsy Teuton**

By ENS Jonathan Dillard, USCG  
By ENS Justin Sherman, USCG  
By LT Patrick Weaver, USCG  
By LTJG Rachel Christensen, USCG  
By Mr. & Mrs. Robert Carsey Jr.  
By Mr. Robert Sanford

#### **Beverly MacMasters**

By Mr. & Mrs. Edward Welsh

#### **Capt Elizabeth "Betsy" Kealey, USMC**

By LT Kristina Fritts, USN & Mr. Matthew Fritts  
By CAPT & Mrs. Arthur Halvorson, USCG (Ret.)  
By Ms. Nancy Graham

#### **CAPT Irvin Lindemuth, USCG (Ret.)**

By Mrs. B. Carolyn Lindemuth

#### **Capt Mark McDowell, USAF**

By Capt Christopher Peterson, USAF

#### **CAPT Michael Dallam, USN (Ret.)**

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

#### **Carolyn Groves**

By Mr. & Mrs. Mark Castiglione  
By Mr. Mark Dick  
By Mr. & Mrs. Leland Nyquist  
By CAPT & Mrs. Robert Durfey Jr., USCG (Ret.)  
By Col & Mrs. William Hudspeth, USAF (Ret.)  
By LTC & Mrs. Bryan Groves, USA  
By Maj James Groves, USAF (Ret.)  
By Mr. & Mrs. Larry Hill  
By Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Bocksell  
By Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reinert  
By Mr. Karlton Hedin  
By Mr. Leroy Nelson  
By Ms. Elvera Renman  
By Ms. Judith Stallknecht  
By Ms. Margaret Nelson  
By Rev. & Mrs. George Groves  
By Torry Groves

#### **Col Homer & Inez Bowman**

By Mr. & Mrs. Warren Soper

#### **COL Gerald Williams, USA (Ret.)**

By Mrs. Lynn Williams

#### **Col Nimrod (Mac) McNair, USAF (Ret.)**

By Executive Leadership Foundation, Inc.

#### **COL Scott Salyers, USA (Ret.)**

By Mr. Lawrence Rosenman  
By MAJ & Mrs. William Law III, USA (Ret.)  
By Mr. James Cox  
By Ms. Karen Tupitza  
By Greenleaf Trust

#### **CW4 Ralph Thompson**

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

#### **Deena Mills**

By Lt Col & Mrs. Terrance Stokka, USAF (Ret.)

#### **Geraldine L. Satterfield**

By CH(MAJ) Steven Satterfield, USAF

#### **Inge Jayne**

By COL Robert Jayne Jr., USA (Ret.)

#### **Jonie Snow**

By LTC Richard Irish, USA (Ret.)

#### **Julian Stewart**

**John Abbott**

**Al Vernon**

**Betty Jo Ratcliff**

**Bonnie Rae Cates**

#### **Dan Winn**

**Janet Stuart**

By CAPT & Mrs. O. W. Camp Jr., USNR (Ret.)

#### **Louise Hawthorne**

By Ms. Donna Swezey

#### **LT Roy Seaman, USN**

By Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Elliott

#### **LTC Edsel Docken Sr., USA (Ret.)**

By Friendship Garden Club

#### **Lt Col Michael Thornell, USAF (Ret.)**

By Col & Mrs. Charles Cox, USAF (Ret.)

#### **LtCol Tom Hemingway USMC (Ret.)**

By Dr. & Mrs. David Drake, DC

#### **Merry Johnson**

By CPT Alysa Angel, USA

#### **My Parents**

By LCDR Patsy Robinson, USN (Ret.)

#### **Ralph Martin**

By Melinda Martin

#### **Terrance Jedrzejewski**

**Timothy Sweeney**

**Wallace Price**

**Jessie Harman Jr**

By COL & Mrs. Kim Kadesch, USA

## White Sulphur Springs

Paul & Dawn Robyn // OCF Field Staff

### January saw outstanding retreat attendance

We hosted 4 retreats in January, the first coming only 3 days after the conclusion of the Winter Retreats. One highlight was the huge USNA/USCGA/USMMA retreat, usually held on the same weekend as the annual Quantico Marine retreat. But because of the great work by James & Julie Baca at USNA and Carl & Christy Crabtree at USCGA, the interest in attending this retreat weekend is growing. Another retreat highlight was the OCF Eastern Leader's Conference. We originally expected 30-40 guests, but ended up with about 90! It was great to see the energy, excitement, and enthusiasm from so many OCF leaders from around the country about the Integrated Faith Project (see pages 2 and 18 for more info) the direction OCF is heading with the Strategic Framework, especially concerning its Growing Christian Military Leaders (GCML) line of effort. It was also wonderful to see how WSS could be utilized to showcase this new ministry material and help in the effort to refine the product but also start to build some excitement and energy in the field for the project.

## Ministry News

### 'Rise Up and Build' Fundraiser for USNA

For over 40 years, hundreds of USNA officers and midshipmen have been powerfully impacted for Christ by OCF's transforming ministry outreach taking place at Maranatha Mansion, which also serves as a home for USNA OCF staff.

Decades of life-changing ministry have taken a toll on the historic home in Annapolis. And now immediate and substantial repairs are needed to continue the significant opportunities of sharing Christ's love to our nation's future leaders.

"Rise Up and Build" is a multi-phase project of repairs which include a new sewer line, ceilings, flooring, and an expanded kitchen, as well as other critical items. For more information on how you can partner with OCF in God's kingdom

work to midshipmen, or to donate:

ONLINE: [www.ocfusa.org/riseup](http://www.ocfusa.org/riseup)

BY MAIL: Make check payable to OCF and include memo for "USNA Maranatha Mansion Fund." Send to OCF, 3784 South Inca, Englewood, CO 80110-3405.

### White Sulphur Springs celebrates 40th anniversary

Plan to join in this summer at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center as the ministry will celebrate and commemorate 40 years of outreach to the military and their families. Special activities throughout this upcoming season of Summer R&R include a special ceremony on 17 June commemorating the Harrison House dedication and wrapping up with a concert by Christian singer/songwriter Danny Byram. For those who served on staff at WSS over the past 40 years, depending on when they served, each week of Summer R&R is designed as a distinctive reunion week for them. For more information on all the great things happening this summer, check the WSS website: [whitesulphursprings.org/summer-mnr/](http://whitesulphursprings.org/summer-mnr/)

### Danny Byram releases new book on church worship

Christian singer/songwriter Danny Byram, who frequently leads worship at events at OCF's two conference centers, has written a book that releases on 20 March—*Wallpaper Worship: Why Church Music Sounds Better, Fewer Are Singing, and What to Do About It*. Examining worship's history, biblical examples, and personal experiences, Byram shares "how worshippers do not have to tolerate passive observation in worship."

For more information, or to preorder: <https://www.clcpublications.com/shop/wallpaper-worship-why-church-music-sounds-better-fewer-are-singing-and-what-to-do-about-it/>

## Upcoming Events

### Resurrection Retreat at White Sulphur Springs Conference Center

Thursday-Sunday, 29 March—1 April

Speaker: CAPT Tom Joyce, USN (Ret.),

pastor of Immanuel Bible Church, Virginia.

**New this year:** A Thursday night Seder dinner, providing a look at Christ in the Passover feast, where the Messiah's redemptive love is revealed in this festive meal. Especially attractive to children, the meal's courses, elements, and songs will vividly display God's plan of a Passover lamb. The 3-night weekend retreat of celebrating the risen Christ includes traditional activities such as a sunrise service, Easter egg hunt for kids, and sumptuous buffet. Nursery through high school programs will be offered during adult teaching sessions.

For more info: [whitesulphursprings.org/resurrection-retreat](http://whitesulphursprings.org/resurrection-retreat)

### Chaplains Family Conference at Spring Canyon Retreat & Conference Center

26-29 April

**Speakers:** CH(LTC) Rod Mills, USA (Ret.); MG Kurt Fuller, USA (Ret.)

**Topic:** The Lifestyle of Spiritual Vitality

**Schedule:** Worship, teaching sessions, children/teens program, family free time, Danny Byram concert.

For more info: [springcanyon.org/chaplains-retreat-2/](http://springcanyon.org/chaplains-retreat-2/)

### Career Transition Strategies Workshop at White Sulphur Springs

20-22 April

If you're transitioning from active duty within the next 3 years, this workshop can help you and your spouse think and prepare biblically for the next season of life. The Caleb Challenge career transition team of retired military leaders can help jump-start officers and their spouses as they transition out of their military lives into what God has planned for them ahead. Participants will be guided and engaged by these career coaches through a proven, biblically-grounded, "whole of life" process of interactive work, group discussions, and personal exercises.

For more info: [whitesulphursprings.org/agenda/career-transitions-workshop/](http://whitesulphursprings.org/agenda/career-transitions-workshop/)

### More events online:

- [ocfusa.org/events](http://ocfusa.org/events)
- [whitesulphursprings.org/agenda](http://whitesulphursprings.org/agenda)
- [springcanyon.org](http://springcanyon.org)



## OCF Council election now under way

Voting for the Council Class of 2021 is now under way through 31 March. Photos and bios of the candidates can be found online at [ocfusa.org/candidates](https://ocfusa.org/candidates). OCF Regular Members eligible for voting can do so in two ways—online or paper ballot.

If you plan to vote online and haven't yet voted, check your email (including junk folder) for a message OCF sent on 1 March with login credentials and voting instructions and please vote. If you prefer not to vote online, use the ballot below and send it back to the OCF home office. Ballots postmarked by 31 March will be tallied.

## Council Fall wrap-up

Your OCF Council conducted its biannual meeting at OCF's Spring Canyon Retreat and Conference Center in Buena Vista, Colorado (shown above) 19–22 October. Carrying forward the momentum from OCF's new Mission and Vision established at the spring meeting, the fall session Council revamped committee structure around five standing committees: Executive, Steering, Governance, Finance, and Talent. These five committees conducted their first official meetings during the Council, with



Spring Canyon photo

homework ahead to establish charters and key tasks in the coming months.

This was also the first Council under the new fiscal year structure, and the first Council after the official start of the new Strategic Framework on 1 June. Vice President Amanda Birch presented her suggestion for new Council roles and responsibilities, which was easily adopted and will be codified with a Constitutional Amendment to be presented at the upcoming spring meeting at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center, 19–22 April.

Council recognized Director of Finance

Dean Millard for his nearly 20 years of service to OCF; continued deliberations on "succession planning" and how best to replace lost talent; and reviewed the state of its vast real estate holdings, and the state of its ministry efforts.

—Col Michael Moyles, USAF (Ret.)

## Council Spring meeting

If you are interested in attending OCF Council's April meeting at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center, please contact Heidi Martin at [heidi.martin@ocfusa.org](mailto:heidi.martin@ocfusa.org) or 800-424-1984.

## OCF Council Paper Ballot

Once you've completed your ballot, cut it out and seal it inside the remittance envelope inside this issue of COMMAND. If the envelope is missing, mail your ballot to: OCF, 3784 S Inca, Englewood, CO, 80110. For more information, contact Heidi Martin at the OCF home office: 800-424-1984 or [heidi.martin@ocfusa.org](mailto:heidi.martin@ocfusa.org).

**Class of 2021 Council Election:** Vote for as many as **five candidates** by placing a mark in the box to the left of the candidate's name.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ OCF Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Capt Josh Benedetti, USAF
- ☐ CH(LTC) Donald Carrothers, USA
- ☐ LT Matthew Drayton, CHC, USN
- ☐ LTC Vaughn (Eric) Hathaway, USA
- ☐ LTC Michael Helton, USA
- ☐ Col Dale Holland, USAF (Ret.)
- ☐ LCDR Gordon Hood, USCG

- ☐ LTC Theodore Kaiser, USA
- ☐ LTC Kwenton Kuhlman, USA
- ☐ Lt Col Nathan Loucks, USAF
- ☐ Maj Matthew McWhirter, USAF
- ☐ Capt Benjamin Pennington, USMC
- ☐ CAPT Arthur (AJ) Reiss, USN
- ☐ CDR Dennis Wischmeier, USN



Photo by TSgt Patrick O'Reilly, USAF

Integrating your faith and profession—even while in uniform—can be done. Though it's seemingly otherwise, the law—and military policy in general—is on your side.

# ACTIVE DUTY, ACTIVE FAITH

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BY MAJOR JASON LADD, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

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*I sat at a round table at the Officers Club staring at a plate full of breakfast buffet. I looked again over at the entryway. Where's Wishbone?*

Wishbone was another pilot in our Marine detachment assigned to provide a static display for a weekend airshow. It wasn't surprising that he might be late. He was drinking heavily the previous night, enough for us to cut him off and send him back to lodging before things got out of hand. Now it was 8 a.m., and late was gradually becoming UA (unauthorized absence).

A colonel walked over to our group. "Are you guys

missing a Marine this morning?" He said a Marine was found passed out in a grass ditch on base and picked up by the military police. After some negotiation, he was released into the colonel's custody and escorted back to his room to sleep it off. "He goes by Wishbone," the colonel added.

I flashed back to the night before, sitting next to Wishbone on a barstool in that same Officers Club, staring at a glass half full of Diet Coke. Wishbone



ordered another beer.

He turned to ask what I suspected others in the squadron also wanted to, but never did, “Why don’t you drink?” I was a teetotaler. I hadn’t always been that way. The fact that I didn’t drink was common knowledge to most in the squadron, and it was a stance I took with confidence since assuming a significant leadership role among the young officers.

I stumbled through my explanation (I’m getting better!), attempting to convey a strong judgment against drunkenness without condemning drinking—and drinkers—in general. But I always carefully share one of the most significant faith-based reasons my wife and I decided not to drink: so that others might not stumble because of our actions (Romans 14:13).

After hearing my explanation, he looked down at his glass, as if he wanted to do something with my revelation. But something was holding him back. Then something seemed to snap inside him. He looked up and smiled, “I just love to drink.” The watershed had collapsed, but I had done my duty: living out my faith in word and action so that others might see the light, and be curious.

Living out an active faith while serving on active duty is important, yet challenging when you don’t know your rights. It’s even more important for those enthusiastic about evangelism and apologetics to know what can and can’t be done while on active duty. And while it may seem otherwise, the law—and military policy in general—is on your side.

## What You Can Do

As stated in the “Religious Liberty Protection Kit for the U.S. Military” from First Liberty Institute, “Under most circumstances a service member’s religious expression—including evangelism or proselytizing—is protected by the First Amendment.” And for the most part, “the military cannot restrict off-duty religious expression,” such as leading a Bible study in your barracks room after working hours.

On-duty religious expression can only be restricted if the military “can demonstrate

that the restriction furthers a compelling governmental interest by the least restrictive means.” So unless keeping a Bible on your work desk interferes with the mission, readiness, good order and discipline, or health (and it doesn’t), your freedom to do so should not be restricted.

If your sincerely held religious belief requires you to enact (or refrain from) a physical act of expression of that belief, and a military policy, practice, or duty will substantially burden your exercise of religion, then you may request an accommodation, such as growing a beard, wearing specific apparel, or observing the Sabbath. Policy states that these accommodations will be approved as long as the requests don’t interfere with the mission, readiness, etc. But a request for accommodation is not a guarantee that it will be granted. Compliance with the policy, practice, or duty, is required unless and until approved.

Additional requirement: the act (or refraining from) must be specifically commanded by the doctrine of your faith—and not based on your interpretation alone—and must be conducted in good faith. An appeals court deemed that while Scripture is a central part of the Christian faith, there are no doctrinal commands to post Bible verses in public view at the workplace, such as the Marine who refused to remove Scripture references—which were perceived as adversarial in undertone—from a cubicle wall.

## What You Can’t Do

Some circumstances require care. Those in senior rank or position to the listener should “avoid the appearance of coercion or official government endorsement of” religion. It’s okay for a commander during his change-of-command speech to credit Jesus Christ for his successes. Or to explain it’s faith in Jesus Christ if an enlisted asks why you seem so centered. But don’t cross the line with a sermon to junior enlisted and suggest the only way their fitness reports will improve is if they repent and declare Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Your speech should be filled with truth, logic, and salt, but you may not let your

feelings about other religions lead to discrimination and affect how you treat people professionally. Your respect for the person should always overpower your disagreement about their faith.

## What You Should Do

Actions and presence (or absence) can speak volumes. You should find ways to be a Christ-like influence beyond interfaith dialogue and Sunday services. Go out of your way to participate with your peers in sports and other extracurriculars, but make your absence obvious from social events centered around debauchery, such as where drunkenness is glorified.

Leaders must make their expectations clear and responses appropriate when lines are crossed. Nothing stifles a command climate faster than hypocrisy, but you must resist making allowances based on your own past mistakes. Leaders should lead with an ethic coming from a mind that’s continually conformed to Christ. Ask of your people what is good and right based on His moral law, not past misdeeds.

## What You Must Do

You must pursue God and live out your faith while on active duty. It’s easy to get caught up in the cyclical training and deployment grind to where your faith comes out only on Sunday—if at all. Stay engaged. Find a spiritual battle buddy—someone to hold you accountable. Commit to a daily devotional. Be an example in both word and deed.

Because if you run into a Wishbone, it might be your word or deed that keeps them from snapping. 🐾

*Jason, a Marine who served for 14 years on active duty, is an apologist, entrepreneur, and author of *One of the Few: A Marine Fighter Pilot’s Reconnaissance of the Christian Worldview* ([OneOfTheFewBook.com](http://OneOfTheFewBook.com)). He writes about leadership, parenthood, and worldview development at [jasonbladd.com/blog](http://jasonbladd.com/blog). He and his wife, Karry, have seven children.*



**RELIGIOUS RIGHTS OF THOSE IN UNIFORM:** Michael Berry of First Liberty Institute was a guest on episode 4 of Crosspoint. You can listen by subscribing to Crosspoint in iTunes, or going to [ocfusa.org/crosspoint](http://ocfusa.org/crosspoint).



Photo by PO3 Brandon Giles, USCG

# FINDING GOD IN THE STORM

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BY LIEUTENANT JAMES RADER, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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*In August of 2017, Hurricane Harvey pummeled the Houston and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast area with high winds and more than four feet of rain. LT James Rader, an MH-65D Dolphin helicopter pilot at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Houston, flew nearly 24 hours of dangerous medical transports of life-and-death situations when local ambulances and commercial medivac helicopters were swamped by the floods. This is his story...*



On Sunday, the third day of rain, was when the flooding really started. We in the unit were being called in, but none of us could get there. I couldn't get out: water was two inches from my front door. The helicopters were first used to pick up crew members, wherever they could land. Seeing the flood from a helicopter is hard to describe. From the ground, it's amazing to see the flood waters coming up. But when you get in the air and see your city, it's just water, tree tops, and roofs.

The hardest for me was that first night with some of the medivacs we did. I was the aircraft commander and never felt so much weight and responsibility on my shoulders. I haven't quite been in a situation like that before, responsible for coming back safely when you have a whole crew with you that has families. It was a pretty extreme amount of risk we accepted to do the mission.

The difference of flying in the hurricane as opposed to other flying is that it was in an urban environment. There aren't a whole lot of obstacles at a 300-foot ceiling over open water, except ships or oil rigs. But in an urban environment with the extreme conditions, it was pretty surreal to be flying around in the city where the tops of the buildings are in the clouds. It was dangerous flying—power lines and towers to contend with, especially unlit towers at night from power outages.

With winds blasting up to 134 miles per hour, we ran into turbulence from downdrafts coming off buildings and structures and different places where you ideally wouldn't want to put yourself. But there was so much to gain by saving people in a situation like that.

We got ourselves in a bad way in a downdraft during one of the night missions as we were departing the hospital with a head trauma patient aboard. We tried to fly out of it, but the downdraft pushed us down. We ended up flying between a couple of buildings and a parking lot that didn't have much clearance at all. I personally believe God pulled us out of that situation, but the struggle now is that others want to attribute it to our abilities as operators or pilots. It was an experience where I can share with others that it wasn't me or the

## LT Rader's training tips for weathering life's storms

**Faith:** Be intentional about your faith and be determined to stay in fellowship and accountability with brothers and sisters wherever you may be stationed. Stay plugged in, and don't try to do life alone. Being intentional about faith means making things like church attendance and fellowship "non-negotiable" items in your life and praying to God about these things. "If you just say, I'll do my best and try to find a church, you might not do it. I think that was part of what kept me plugged in at OCF while I was at the academy. I made that a non-negotiable with myself."

**Family:** Don't neglect your family, and try to keep them as involved as possible. James says there have been times when he's failed in doing this and has justified his actions by saying, "They might not understand what I'm going through. I think the correct response would be that they don't have to understand, but they still should know what struggles you have and what you're going through." It might not mean sharing all of the details of a traumatic event, but it would mean sharing that you have some struggles because of an experience.

**Profession:** Your profession isn't your identity. If you have an exciting job that people love to hear about, then it can be easy to let that become who you are. "Making sure your identity isn't in your profession is very important." It's also important to set the proper priorities to help establish your true identity—your priorities should drive your decisions. Your outlook every day should be that you are a child of God and an ambassador. "It's a privilege and I love what I do. More and more I'm trying not to place my identity in what I do."

helicopter. We were in a bad way there, and God pulled us out of it.

We were so focused during the hurricane on doing the mission well and safely, it was hard to even realize the scope of what we were doing. It took me until after the storm to decompress enough to create an opportunity to hear more and more stories of what people had done and went through. People were talking about the miraculous things that happened, such as changing weather patterns or things happening with no other explanation than God looking out for them. It all created some great opportunities to talk to people about God in the midst of a disaster like this.

Depending on the drainage, in some areas once the rain stopped the flood waters went down quickly. I'd flown up to one area near Houston where a lot of rescues were being done, where the water was up to the roofs of most homes. When I returned the next day, the water had receded almost completely. You wouldn't know anything had happened except for the piles of mattresses, couches, and other debris

along the side of the road.

Houston seems to be a pretty strong city and people really banded together. It was inspiring to see the local businesses and leaders pulling together to help, people helping strangers—anyone with a boat—and even after the storm, all the volunteer organizations helping people rebuild their homes and lives.

Everyone has been receptive to my belief that God pulled us out of the downdraft situation with the helicopter because it seems through traumatic situations people always seem more open to talk about God. Through Hurricane Harvey it's suddenly became okay in our society to talk about God, miracles, and His looking after us. Unless you're from the outside looking in at such a storm, when you're the one going through it, I just don't feel that it would cross your mind to wonder "where was God in this?" Rather than it being "how could He let that happen?" it's instead "how amazing He is for keeping us safe!"

So where was God in all of this? He was right in the middle of it. 🙌



**NAVIGATING THE STORMS:** You can hear more of LT Rader's story in episode 2 of Crosspoint. You can listen by subscribing to Crosspoint in iTunes, or going to [ocfusa.org/crosspoint](https://ocfusa.org/crosspoint).



Used by permission from Galveston County Daily News/Photo by Kelsey Walling

Whether as a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War or as a pastor of a church nearly destroyed by Hurricane Harvey, former Army officer Dr. Ted Duck maintains, “God used those events... to grow my faith and trust in Him.”

# SEEING GOD’S GRACE AT WORK

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BY COLONEL TED DUCK, UNITED STATES ARMY, RETIRED

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*God used numerous events throughout my career to grow my faith and trust in Him, and to prepare me for the literal storms that would come my way.*

As a helicopter pilot serving in Vietnam, there were two times I truly felt that God took control of my aircraft. Once was while evacuating several soldiers from a high outpost, when the RPMs of the helicopter rotors dropped, making control of the aircraft nearly impossible. Only with God’s help did I coax the aircraft to “drop off” the side of the mountain and nose the helicopter down to regain RPM.

The second time was during a night evacuation of wounded soldiers. Because of the minute-sized landing zone, intense enemy antiaircraft and ground fire, and a grass fire, helicopters were inhibited from attempting evacuations of wounded soldiers. It was only God’s hand, presence, and peace that allowed me to hover down through towering trees and vegetation to make three landings that evacuated nearly a dozen wounded.



God used those events, as well as others throughout my career, to grow my faith and trust in Him.

In August of 2017, Hurricane Harvey devastated the Pine Drive Baptist Church that I pastor in Dickinson, Texas. Two of our church and school's 3 buildings had 51 inches of water. Nearly all contents of the sanctuary, gym, school, offices, classrooms, and computer and science labs were destroyed. We were briefly shocked by the devastation, no insurance, and the congregation largely displaced from their own flooded homes. But God gave me peace. After all, it was His church and His ministries. Instead of the insurance company rebuilding His church, He was going to rebuild it.

Two years earlier I had started praying for our church and school, the latter which had been built in 1962 and in need of costly repair. I prayed that in some way God would provide the resources to upgrade our facility and classrooms. And just as He has done in previous crises in my life, God was in the process of answering my prayer in ways that could not be imagined at the time.

Once the flood waters receded to where I saw the magnitude of the hurricane's damage to our church, I called the North American Mission Board. A pastor in Maryland contacted me to see how they could help. A week later, after touring our facilities, a Tennessee pastor handed me a \$10,000 check. Two hours later, that Maryland pastor called to say he had contacted another cleric about our church. He was headed to Dickinson, Texas, to give away \$50,000 to churches affected by the hurricane.

Yet another minister and church were used by God to bless us beyond words. When asked what was needed, I told him the two major expenses for the sanctuary were painting and carpeting. They paid nearly \$50,000 for rebuilding the sanctuary, which included getting the best grade carpeting at their insistence.


Two Texas churches purchased and delivered chairs and tables, one of which later returned to install a new sound system. A team from Indiana started construction in our school and hosted a "Christmas in Houston" event for over 300 kids and adults on their final night. A California team began cleaning and rebuilding the gym the same week. And Samaritan's Purse awarded us a very large grant. I can go on and on how God used His people to fulfill

an answer to my prayers two years previously.

Whether as a leader in my military career or that in my calling as a minister of the Gospel, I realize that others are watching you. Your troops are always watching; your congregation is watching. You might be able to fool those outside of the unit, but you can never fool your soldiers. They know a phony when they see one. They know when a report or status published is not the true status of the unit, aircraft, etc. They expect their commander to be truthful and fairly administer justice when required. And in combat, a crisis, or other emergency, your soldiers not only watch how their commanders respond, but they want and trust that they will lead them, shoulder to shoulder with them, right there with them in the midst of the crisis.

Leading a church is no different. The discipline, integrity, and leadership characteristics I sought to adhere to in the military are the very same characteristics the people of your congregation expect to see in their pastor. Whether a Christian officer or a pastor: Are you who you say you are? Do you preach the Word of God by living it out daily, no matter the crisis? When Hurricane Harvey hit, my congregation looked to me to lead them from the waters, to live out what I had preached—especially since I had preached on faith from the Book of Hebrews before the hurricane.

God has shown me that we are being conformed to His image only by close relationship and communication with Him in prayer, and thanking Him in the midst of the "valley experiences" He leads us to and through. For me it involved suffering: when my first wife of 47 years went home to be with the Lord. Then in seeing people of your congregation devastated by the destruction of our church and school. And yet, through it all, witnessing God's amazing grace, the promises of His Word, and doing what He promises He will do.

I thank God for showing me who He is. Always, and without fail. 

**Ted served in Army aviation for 28 years and commanded the 25th Infantry Division Aviation Brigade in the late 1980s. He and his late wife, Elizabeth, were involved in OCF Bible studies until his retirement in 1994. Now married to Patricia, Ted is the pastor of Pine Drive Baptist Church in Dickinson, Texas.**

## Hurricane Harvey 'strengthened my trust in God'

Numerous OCF members and their families were affected by Hurricane Harvey. One OCF member, David Preston, recently shared his story of how the storm impacted him and his loved ones.

### How and in what ways were you affected by Hurricane Harvey?

My parents, who had 30 minutes to evacuate, had nearly 5 feet of water in their one-story home they'd lived in for 21 years. We gathered a pickup truck load of stuff the next day. Then 20 people from my home church helped. We tossed everything my parents owned into the front yard ditch. Now, at ages 79 and 81, they would have to start over.

### Describe how you saw God at work in the events surrounding the hurricane.

God provided everything my parents needed to make it through the storm. Friends of theirs put them up for 5 days as we cleared their house. Those with a usually booked vacation rental offered it to them at a very reasonable rate—and took it off the market for my parents to live there until their house is rebuilt. The greatest thing God has done is provide peace that comes through His years of faithfulness to my parents. They are able to rest in His love, goodness, and provision.

### What are some of the spiritual takeaways from this event; how has it impacted your faith?

Watching my parents go through this event has strengthened my trust in God to take care of us, no matter what life throws at us, that my faith can last through anything. I have watched my parents' steady faith in God through the death of their daughter years ago, and this event that took away all their earthly possessions. God has my aging parents in His loving arms, and I can cast my care for them on Him, knowing that He loves them and keeps them.





Photo by MSG Brad Staggs, USA

Training, encouragement, and teamwork are vital for mission success. Leaders God can use shape those attributes in those they lead, and are themselves shaped by fellow Christians' encouragement in their own walk of faith.

# BEING A LEADER GOD CAN USE

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BY FIRST LIEUTENANT RYAN MENICUCCI, UNITED STATES ARMY

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*No matter how many leadership seminars I attend, classes I participate in, or how much leadership experience I acquire, I never stop learning what it means to be a Christian placed in a position of responsibility and trust.*



I had the privilege of attending the Eastern OCF-Valor ROTC retreat at OCF's White Sulphur Springs Conference Center last year. It was encouraging to see our future officers seeking the Lord as they pursue their military careers. I attended thinking I could pass on many of my lessons learned in my short military career. God surprised me as I took more away from the weekend than I gave.

That weekend's theme was being a leader that God can use. In order for that to happen, three things must occur. We must: have faith in something that is worthy of our faith; know who we are in Christ; and be prepared to fight the good fight as we engage in spiritual warfare.

## What's your faith in?

Everyone has faith in something, such as careers, abilities, or accomplishments; others focus on their spouse or children. Many trust money.

I briefed my capstone advisor once when we were about twenty-five percent complete with our aircraft design, explaining our design choices, data, wind tunnel testing, etc. We put more trust in some data than others. He bombarded us with questions concerning those items and explained we needed to know the answers to these questions because we had to make assumptions for some of our design choices. He did not say we were wrong, but said something I'll never forget: your answers are only as good as your assumptions.

The same goes with our faith—it's only as good as what we put our faith in. Christian leaders must have faith in Jesus Christ if we are to lead effectively. When you put your faith in yourself, your faith becomes shattered when you mess up because one day your abilities will let you down. Your soldiers, boss, and NCOs will let you down. Praise God for those who work tirelessly to enable you to be an effective leader. But they are human, also learning how to lead more effectively. Just the same as you, we all need grace.

It's exhausting trying to please yourself, your boss, or others. Nothing is more liberating than realizing you don't work to please others, but God instead (Colossians 3:23-24). If you put your faith in treasures, those can be taken

away from you at any second (Luke 12:13-21). Maybe you place your faith in the good works you've done or do (Luke 7:1-10). You will definitely put your faith in something or someone, especially in a leadership position. Where will you put your faith?

## Who are you?

Our identity is rooted in four questions: Who is God, who is my master (or Master), who am I, and what am I going to do about it? The answers to the first two questions drive the direction of the next two. If you know who are, then you know what you must do.

In Ephesians 1:3-14, the term "chosen"—being found worthy, being pursued—is used multiple times in eleven verses. God came after me, not the other way around (Romans 5:8). Being in Christ means that we really are new creations. Our successes, failures, and even our families do not define us. Christ in me is my identity—not my singleness. And we are sealed by the Holy Spirit—given the authority to act in Jesus' name.

Why do we doubt this remarkable identity God has bestowed on us? It could be we believe the lies we are told (John 8:44), or unforgiveness (Matthew 5:23-24), shame, or unconfessed sin (James 5:16).

Everyone forms their identity in something or someone. If your identity is in what you do, what happens when you can no longer do it? What if you lose money or your family? All these things can be lost in an instant—and they don't have the authority to define you. Christ is the only authority worthy to bestow an identity, and it's the only identity we can have that cannot be lost. Leaders that He can use must have their identity in Him.

## Ready for the battle?

Half of my platoon leader time was spent on Global Response Force (GRF) status. We could be called to deploy at any time and always had to be ready to go. We were training at every opportunity we had to train.

This is the mindset we must have as Christians regarding spiritual warfare. There is a real spiritual enemy, and his attacks are sudden, when we are at our

weakest, and they will destroy us if we are not ready. This spiritual enemy will do everything he can to stop us from loving Jesus with all our heart (1 Peter 5:8). That is why putting on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20) every day is so critical.

Part of the training for all Army soldiers is learning how to do every activity with all your gear. You don't run as easily in armor. You definitely don't fire a weapon as easily in full gear. The same goes in our walk with Christ. We must be trained on how to use each part of our spiritual armor properly before putting it to action.

Spiritual warfare has a lot to do with being a leader God can use. As a leader responsible for military men and women, you are charged with ensuring your unit is ready to fight at any time. The most loving thing leaders can do is provide tough, realistic training, which requires discipline, strength, skill, expertise, and teamwork. The same goes in our walk with Christ. We need training and encouragement from other men and women who've been fighting the good fight to show us how to follow Christ when we feel too overwhelmed to carry on.

You will deal with tough circumstances as a military leader. Those you lead may get into trouble with the law, go through a divorce, deal with death, etc. The best thing you can do is pray for them. Fight the good fight for them and let them see you doing it. Let them see their leader love Jesus, and translate that into a love for them. ✝

[Ryan, a West Point graduate, has served as an airborne horizontal construction platoon leader at Fort Bragg, NC, and with the Technical Engineering Competency Developmental Program, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District. Currently assigned to 554th Engineer Battalion, he is attending Engineer Captains Career Course. Ryan has been an OCF member since 2010 and has continued to attend OCF Bible studies and conferences ever since.](#)





USMA OCF photo

## Army-Navy Banquet

**Above:** The 69th edition of the OCF Army-Navy Banquet in December was attended by 145 people, including 18 students from the Valley Forge Military Academy led by longtime OCF member CAPT Jerry Hale, USCG (Ret). USMA OCF Field Staff reps Amy and Colin Wooten along with USNA OCF Field Staff reps James and Juli Baca hosted the annual event.

## Maxwell-Gunter AFB

**Right top:** An OCF fellowship small group Bible study of brothers and sisters in Christ is impactful to the Christian faith, especially for those who are TDY from home or have family members deployed. Those shown here reflect the cross-section of the military community that Maxwell-Gunter OCF serves: the spouse of a deployed member, students attending the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course and Senior Non-commissioned Officer Academy, a base contractor, and an Air War College family from the Netherlands.



Maxwell-Gunter OCF photo

## JBLM group

**Right bottom:** OCF Field Staff rep couple Larry and Bobbie Simpson report that the "regional study groups are delivering hope" to military men and women where "fellowship among participants is warm and members actively bear one another's burdens through prayer and encouragement."



Puget Sound OCF photo



## Eastern OCF-Valor ROTC retreat

**Top:** From 10 schools, over 70 cadets and midshipmen were encouraged by Col Darren Duke, USMC, who spoke about the call of Christ for military leaders. New to the lineup of a junior officer panel was a senior NCO panel that provided new perspectives to these future leaders of what they'll face after commissioning. Other retreat activities included varied breakout sessions, praise and worship, and free time.

## Ohio State

**Middle:** Retired OCF military leaders investing their lives into the next generation of servant leaders—that is the longstanding ministry of LTC Gwynn & Kit Vaughan, USA (Ret.) to ROTC cadets and mids over the years. Often occurring in their home, the Vaughans host dinners or provide opportunities for cadets and mids to glean insight from speakers about the integration of faith and profession.

## USAFA OCF

**Bottom:** To the cadets at USAFA, including these fourth class cadets of the Class of 2021, building momentum in a large-group setting and worshipping the Lord together as an OCF family of believers are some of the ministry efforts to cadets. Foundational to encouraging the integration of faith and profession in their lives is biblical training toward Christlike spiritual maturity.



WSS photo



Ohio State OCF photo



USAFA OCF photo

## Send us your Ministry In Action group photo

For consideration in [COMMAND](#) magazine or OCF Facebook, send your **high-resolution photo** to Managing Editor Karen Fliedner: [karen.fliedner@ocfusa.org](mailto:karen.fliedner@ocfusa.org).



**INTEGRATED**  
FAITH PROJECT

## Survey reveals need for ‘how-to’ resources

By OCF Communications

Throughout OCF’s nearly 75 years of ministry within the military, the question of “how can I best serve both the nation and the Lord?” has continually weighed on the hearts and minds of the Fellowship’s members. Part of the answer is found in the countless stories of military members and families, from one generation to the next, who’ve been impacted by Christ-like OCF leaders, such as the life-changing experiences occurring through local Bible-based fellowships, mentoring and discipling relationships, and conference center ministry.

But in today’s military, which is reflective of the wider society, a multicultural shift threatens to separate the bond between one’s faith and profession. The question of how best to faithfully serve both the nation and the Lord is increasingly becoming more difficult to answer.

Recognizing this shift, OCF Council and leadership began wrestling with the “how-to” aspect of integrating faith into all areas of life so that OCF members become equipped to have an even greater impact upon more men and women throughout

the military society.

In response to answering the “how-to” of faithfully integrating faith and profession, OCF Marketing Director Susan Wallis randomly chose OCF members from all military services who encompassed a broad range of rank and age. Over the course of six months, these members were interviewed about their personal experiences as Christians in the military and with OCF. Immediately emerging as one of the top concerns, particularly among younger leaders, was how to navigate their daily lives through the shifting, increasingly splintered culture surrounding them.

They reflect OCF members’ long-standing and deep desire of how to be a Christ-like servant leader in life and especially in their military service.

For junior officers, especially those who sense that almost any discussion about spiritual matters while in uniform is frowned upon, a typical challenge comes from deciding whether it is best to just keep quiet about their Christian identity.

Ultimately, the research interviews illuminated a critical need for OCF to develop and offer varied, relevant resources to help

Christ-like leaders navigate our contemporary culture’s brittle morality.

Earlier this year, OCF launched the Integrated Faith Project (IF Project), an equipping resource video and discussion series developed to reach military members stationed across the globe and address their “how-to” questions of growing in Christ and living out their Christian faith in today’s culture. The IF Project was piloted at a retreat at OCF’s White Sulphur Spring Conference Center in late January. The 65 attending leaders provided suggestions for improvements and agreed that the IF Project holds great promise in helping military men and women to wisely and boldly live out their faith personally, professionally, and in their family and community relationships.

It is OCF’s desire that every member will participate in this program. Planned IF Project pilots taking place this July include one with USMA cadets and two online versions.

More about the Integrated Faith Project will be featured in upcoming issues of *COMMAND*, and can be found on the OCF website at [ocfusa.org/ifproject](http://ocfusa.org/ifproject).



**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.

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 comms@ocfusa.org or 800-424-1984.

Cover photo by SSgt Ryan Crane, USAF

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COMMAND is published three times a year (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.

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#### Member:

Evangelical Press Association  
 Combined Federal Campaign #10531



**Lieutenant James Rader**  
 UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

**Came to OCF:** I was introduced to OCF at the USCGA by the Field Staff at the time, Jim and Carolyn Groves (or as we called them, Major and Mrs.) in 2006, during my Swab Summer.

**Why OCF:** I was drawn to OCF because of how serious and intentional the Groveses were about serving God in the military community. Nothing was superficial and everything was grounded in prayer and Scripture. I also like how you can find an OCF group or member almost anywhere you get stationed. The majority of the most influential people in my life I have met through OCF.

**Why a military life:** I wanted an active and exciting career where I could fulfill humanitarian missions and help those in need. The Coast Guard offered all of that and I now get to fly helicopters, which is exciting, and conduct Search and Rescue operations.

**Best advice given you:** When I first reported to the USCGA, my parents sent me a card and my Dad wrote in it, "Noth-

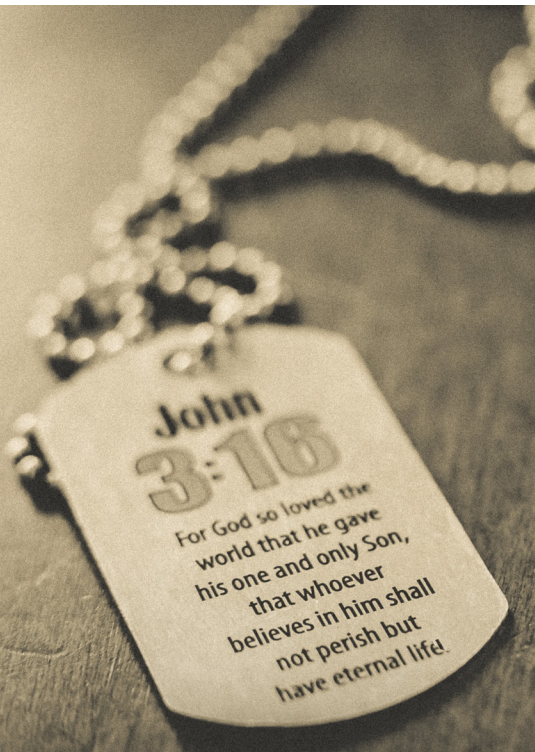
ing good in life ever comes easy." Those words were very true and motivated me to press on through difficult times over the next four years. Turns out, it's still true today.

**What's on your bucket list:** I enjoy shooting high power rifles and hope to someday earn a Distinguished Rifleman Badge. I would also like to visit Alaska.

**Most memorable places visited:** Estes Park, Colorado, is pretty amazing. I also visited Monaco once—it was quite an experience.

**Life Bible verses:** I really like John 16:33 (NKJV). "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Jesus isn't offering us a life without tribulation; in fact, He guarantees that it will happen. He does, however, provide a solution: Himself. What wonderful words to hear, that our Savior has already overcome the world. The battle is already won!

**PODCAST:** LT Rader was a guest in episode 2 of Crosspoint. You can listen by subscribing to Crosspoint in iTunes, or going to [ocfusa.org/crosspoint](http://ocfusa.org/crosspoint).



**Dedicated to sharing stories  
of military life at the intersection  
of faith, family, and profession**

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