



Semper Fidelis Society's annual Bulldog Challenge, an intense seven-mile endurance test that includes a Marine obstacle course, a stadium run, a firefighter's carry and team pushups. Felts and her team finished with a time of 1:47:14, and placed second in the all-female teams.

Col. Ralph Tice, '74, commanding officer of the department of Naval science and one of Felts' professors was impressed with her determination and leadership: "Cadet Felts provided a high level of leadership and motivation for her team. Midway through the competition as her team negotiated the obstacle course, Cadet Felts performed the rope climb portion. This is a very physically demanding event.

"It was especially noteworthy due to the fact that she, along with many others, had not been able to successfully climb to the top of this obstacle at the first of this year. Her persistence, hard work and can-do attitude enabled her to overcome this challenge, and on this day, her determination paid off big for her team."

In the Marine Corps Felts is interested in pursuing a career in logistics, but as a criminal justice major, she is also interested in eventually earning a law degree or going into the field of law enforcement.

Unlike the service academies, cadets at The Citadel are not required to serve in the armed forces. Traditionally, a third of the Corps—cadets like Felts—will go on to serve after graduation. ROTC classes, however, are a requirement of attending The Citadel. Cadets must pass one ROTC class every semester.

"When I do something, I like to learn from it, and if I'm not succeeding, I try that much harder."

"You bond because you sweat together and you bond for the simple fact that you're doing everything like the person next to you. You PT until you can't stand anymore. Knob year is tough."

Knob year wasn't the only obstacle Felts had to overcome.

"There are classmates that don't give me the time of day because I'm a female, but that's okay. I still love this school. Melanie De Santiago ['01] told me not to use that as a crutch—that just because something happens to you, you can't look at it like you were targeted because you are a female."

After graduation, Felts will complete 10 weeks of Officer Candidate School (OCS) and then receive her commission. In order to be prepared for the grueling physical regimen of OCS, Felts runs and works out three times a week with fellow Marine ROTC cadets. In fact, Felts teamed up with three cadets to take part in the

In her final semester, Felts took Tice's Naval Science 402 class, Leadership and Ethics.

"I wish every cadet in the Corps could take this class," says Felts. "It's an eye opener."

The different philosophies and case studies introduced by Tice are thought provoking and force cadets to consider ethical decision-making.

At The Citadel, though, cadets don't just study about leadership, they witness it first hand in the Corps. Adam Burch, '03, who served as a squad corporal Felts' freshman year, made a great impression on her.

"He never raised his voice," she remembers. "Not once. He didn't have to. He commanded that kind of authority, and you wanted to do what he asked you to. . . . That's how you should lead."

Leading by example—if Felts does it the way she does everything else, she'll be climbing the ranks.