

Knob Year Reflection

Mission. Battalion and company commanders facilitate a deliberate process by which freshmen reflect on their fourthclass year experience in order to build self-awareness, develop a frame of reference, and grow.

Intent. Fourthclass cadets understand their freshman year experience in the context of their overall leadership development.

Concept of Operations. During Challenge Week, battalion commanders will introduce fourthclass cadets to the objectives of the fourthclass system and the concept of “crucibles.” There are three formal crucibles in the fourthclass system. These are Challenge Night, Parents’ Day promotion, and Recognition. Most fourthclass cadets will experience many more personal and less deliberately planned crucibles. The battalion commanders will share with the freshmen their own crucible moments from knob year and how they have shaped them as leaders. Company commanders will follow this introduction with a class on self-awareness, frame of reference, and growth. The company commanders will share with the freshmen what they learned about themselves knob year, the frame of reference they gained, and how they grew. Fourthclass cadets will complete a worksheet that records what they consider to be their individual strengths and weaknesses, the frame of reference that presently informs their decision-making and world view, and their growth objectives for the year. They will keep a copy, refer to it throughout the year, and bring it with them to the reflection exercises that occur right before recognition. Those exercises will begin with battalion commanders reminding the knobs of crucibles and recounting the year in that context. He or she will then ask for volunteers to share some of their crucible moments and how they will shape their approach to leadership and life. Next, company commanders will have the freshmen reflect on their Challenge Week worksheet and complete a new worksheet that records what they now consider to be their strengths and weaknesses; how, if at all, their frame of reference has changed; how they grew over the past year; and how they plan to continue growing. After giving the freshmen time to complete that reflection, he or she will ask for volunteers to share their experiences.

Supporting documents.