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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com



(Neb.)-New Faculty In Military Science And Leadership Program



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 11/01/2013 08:36 AM

Photo, from left: Maj. Jeremy Bryan, Lt. Nate Reicks and Maj. Raymond Phillips. (Daniel Binkard/Chadron State College)

(CHADRON)-Changes are taking place in the Chadron State College Army ROTC program, which started in the fall of 2008 with six cadets and now has 34. The goal of the program is to achieve and maintain an enrollment of 40 and commission six Second Lieutenants each year.

Maj. Raymond Phillips, a 2003 CSC graduate, has been involved with the CSC ROTC program as an assistant professor of Military Science and Leadership since 2008. He says the program's growth "is due to the support of the CSC administration, faculty and staff. Without that backing, we wouldn't have been able to do this."

Phillips is being transferred to Lincoln and will assume his new duties there as an administrative officer with the Nebraska Army National Guard Construction and Facilities Management Office on November 4th. Phillips is currently pursuing his master's degree and received the rank of Major on Oct. 9th.

Ten Military Science and Leadership courses, all with co-requisite labs, are taught at CSC from the 100 level through the 400 level. The dual mission of the program is to develop model citizens who have an increased appreciation and understanding of the U.S. military and produce Second Lieutenants for the Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

Phillips says, "I'm leaving with mixed emotions. I enjoyed my time at CSC as a student and as a staff member. It's been the most rewarding experience in my life – to watch young students grow and be part of their development. I've also enjoyed the community support given to CSC. That's the purpose of ROTC, to develop the cadets to give back, either in the army or in their communities."

Phillips, who is currently in the Nebraska Army National Guard Support Operations Office, is being replaced by Maj. Jeremy Bryan and Lt. Nate Reicks.

Bryan received the rank of Major Oct. 14th. He will commute to Chadron since he also has teaching responsibilities at the other two member institutions of the Army ROTC Mount Rushmore Battalion -- Black Hills State University and South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT). He has been affiliated with the Battalion since 2006.

Bryan, a 2001 graduate of SDSMT, has been teaching MSL courses at CSC since the beginning of the fall 2013 semester. He served as an enlisted soldier for six years before receiving his commission.

"CSC students, faculty and staff are good people. I'm looking forward to working here. I don't want to make any big changes. We just want to continue to improve upon what we have. These students show up and try hard. You can't ask for more than that," Bryan said.

Lt. Reicks is on full-time active-duty with the Nebraska National Guard. He has been in the military 12 years, been deployed twice to Iraq, and is now a platoon leader in Norfolk. He graduated from the University of Nebraska-Kearney in 2011.

"I will have an experienced mentor in Maj. Bryan," Reicks said. "The ROTC program is very demanding. It takes a lot of the students' time plus they have jobs and volunteer on campus and in the community. They're hard working and have good values."

Reicks, who is the assistant professors of Military Science and Leadership, and Bryan both report to Lt. Col. Lynna Speier, professor of Military Science and Leadership with the Mount Rushmore Battalion. Reicks will attend training at Fort Knox in December to be certified to teach ROTC.

The War Eagles club affiliated with the ROTC program is helping with the Social Work class Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder conference for veterans on the CSC campus, Nov. 13th.

—Tena L. Cook, Interim Marketing Coordinator