



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

JOHN F. KENNEDY SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AND SCHOOL  
2<sup>ND</sup> SPECIAL WARFARE TRAINING GROUP  
FORT BRAGG, NC, 28307

### To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this correspondence is to outline the outstanding development that I received while participating in the Pistol Team program supported by the Special Forces Association for aspiring leaders in the University of Montana Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) program.

To give you a little background on myself, I commissioned from the University of Montana ROTC program in May of 2015 as an Active Duty Infantry Officer. After completing the Infantry Officer Basic Leader Course, my wife and I received orders to serve in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment located in Vilseck, Germany. While stationed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment, I had the opportunity to conduct training rotations to Israel, Poland, Lithuania, and Georgia, serving as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer, and then as an Assistant Operations Officer. In May of 2019, I had the opportunity to attend Special Forces Assessment and Selection and I was selected to attend the Special Forces Qualification Course. I am currently a language student within the Qualification Course pipeline and I have successfully completed SOFCCC, 18A MOS Course, SERE-C, Small Unit Tactics, and Robin Sage. My wife and I are expecting to PCS to Fort Carson, CO to serve in 10<sup>th</sup> SFG in June of this year.

Throughout my career I have performed well in both pistol and rifle marksmanship and I attribute this to the training I received from Travis Hambrick and Ike Slaughter. Before joining the pistol team I had limited experience with firearms, and even less experience in handling pistols. Travis Hambrick and Ike Slaughter gave me the foundation that I needed to continue training on my own after I commissioned. The drills that they ran us through back then I still use today when I go to the range. They also gave me invaluable insight into how what we were practicing on the range translated into combat operations.

In discussions with my peers I have realized that the quality of instruction and opportunities that I had on the Pistol Team at the University of Montana are unmatched across the country with the only exception being the United States Military Academy at West Point.

I believe that it is extremely important to maintain the Pistol Team at the University of Montana. The program gives future officers the tools that they need to design a marksmanship program at their future unit and also provides them with individual skills that they would otherwise not have the opportunity to develop. Pistol marksmanship in particular is an area that the army does not provide adequate training on and the training done with a pistol is translatable to rifle marksmanship as well, making it that much more valuable. I am very thankful that the Special Forces Association provided a way for me as a young cadet to develop my skills and I hope future generations of cadets from the University of Montana will have the same opportunity.

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