

# Battalion Commander

BY JESSICA XAYASANE

BROBSON CLIMBS JROTC RANKS AND COLLECTS ACHIEVEMENTS BY TAKING ON LEADERSHIP ROLE

**O**n the football field before a game, in the center of an assembly, in front of judges at a competition, or addressing a group of uniformed teenagers giving commands, Battalion Commander Angela Brobson (12) is the face of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC) unit. As a freshman, she only wanted to have a common class with a friend from another school, but she received more out of JROTC than she thought.

Two hours a day, five days a week, throughout the school year, Brobson practices drills, rifle shooting, and raider drills with the rest of the JROTC unit. Drills consist of the routines that a marching unit performs in unison. Raider involves the most physical activity. At competitions, cadets compete in a one-mile run, cross a rope bridge, pull a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (a Humvee Pull), and perform a litter carry, where a group of cadets act as a human vehicle to carry items or a person. Rifle shooting allows members to practice their marksmanship and accuracy when firing.

Brobson's only motivation is personal growth and rising through the ranks.

"[JROTC] motivates me to do my best, because it allows me to see how far I've gone personally and within ranks since my freshman year," Brobson said. "I feel like there's such a big difference within myself between then and now because of JROTC."

By her senior year, she worked her way up to earn the rank of Battalion Commander, which is the highest position in the battalion. The Battalion Commander is responsible for everything the battalion does or fails to do. Brobson directs subordinate units to follow drill commands to



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ensure that the unit is fully trained and able to successfully perform each drill.

On her path to Battalion Commander, she received several achievements and awards. These awards range from academic merit to recognizing her sharp shooting and include Superior Cadet, the Viking Battalion Principals Award for Academic Excellence, and Silver Civilian Marksmanship Program Achievement.

Brobson is continuing to practice expanding her skills in shooting, academics, and other areas.

"Hopefully, my skills will improve for me to earn gold, and that I can keep up with the Superior Cadet Award along with the academic one," Brobson said.

JROTC motivates teens to become ideal citizens. Cadets are given the opportunity to take on leadership roles and volunteer in the community. Brobson has taken part in March of Dimes and volunteers in the Special Olympics held at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind.

In the next year, Brobson hopes to go to college

**Marching** in the Homecoming parade, Angela Brobson (12) leads JROTC cadets for the last parade on Dupre Drive. Brobson is the Battalion Commander of JROTC, the highest post for a cadet.

and pursue a mathematical degree with a minor in German. Despite her high rank, she does not want to enter the military.

"As of now, I have no interest in going into the military, even though if I did I could become an officer because of my years in JROTC," Brobson said.

Through JROTC, Brobson is able to see growth in herself as well as within the ranks of the battalion. In the process, she achieved much more than just a mutual class with a friend, but also a position to claim that shows her diligence and dedication as well as her community involvement. □