Major Phillip J. White, Associate Professor

Department of Air, Space, and Cyberspace Studies (Clarkson University)

"THAT'S AN ORDER!" DEVELOPING AND EVALUATING LEADERSHIP TRAITS IN FUTURE MILITARY LEADERS

Abstract: Leaders (including future teachers) are made, not born, and the traits of effective leadership can be taught to anyone who is willing to learn them. While classroom-style learning can be helpful, it takes real-world application of leadership to truly mold individuals into leaders who can respond to the dynamic world around them. The mission of Air Force ROTC is to “build leaders of character,” and the leadership traits that are taught in ROTC are just as relevant in the civilian world as they are in the military domain. This discussion will examine how the Air Force develops its leaders and evaluates their personal development while they complete the four-year ROTC curriculum. Comparison with the teacher preparation will be made through the discussion.