

## **Cadet Law Academy**

By Robert B. Ladner

Son of Capt. Robert Ladner

The Cadet Law Academy is a week-long program that is put on by the Kansas Highway Patrol and is sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. It is for high school students between their junior and senior years who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement or just interested in learning about the Highway Patrol.

This one-week program gave me and my classmates a small taste of what recruit troopers go through for twenty-two weeks. Everything from physical training to marching to academics was experienced, even getting up at 5:30 am. I must admit that I didn't know what to expect from the program but soon found a very structured and well-organized training environment.

When you first arrive at the Academy you are assigned to a platoon. I was assigned to the blue platoon and my platoon leader was Trooper Da'Von Brame from Kansas City. The first evening we all got to know each other by telling who we were and where we were from. I got to meet cadets from all over the state.

Throughout the week there were athletic competitions between the platoons. These competitions decided which platoon got to eat first. I thought all of the platoon leaders did a great job throughout the week and it was great hearing all of their stories about situations they've encountered while working the road.

Throughout the week I participated in various activities, including conducting mock traffic stops, flying in an airplane, shooting handguns and shotguns, driving state trooper cars on a couple of courses and visiting the McPherson county jail. The activity that I enjoyed the most was driving the patrol cars. I got to drive the cars hard and I found out that it's not as easy as it looks. I learned a lot and I know I am a better driver from doing those courses. The course consisted of figure eights, parallel parking and other various skills. I participated in various classes throughout the week. Some include: The history of law enforcement and the KHP, Laws pertaining to Arrests, Search and Seizure, Rules of the Road, and other various subjects. The one I enjoyed the most was the search and seizure class because I gained a better understanding of what law enforcement officers can and can't do.

I also participated in Athletic Competition for about an hour every day. During this time I lifted weights, played basketball, volleyball or sometimes just relaxed. There were a couple times when we played basketball and volleyball against our platoon leaders. I had a lot of fun playing against our platoon leaders and I'll admit that they were very competitive.

The week was filled with one activity after another and was a great experience. The week went by very fast and I enjoyed every minute of it. I would like to thank everyone from the Kansas Highway Patrol and the American Legion for the opportunity to attend the Cadet Law Academy. I encourage anyone who is interested to contact your local American Legion post and apply.

By Robert Ladner  
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