

# **FRESHMEN OF THE MIGHTY 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION** **LEAD THE WAY IN JROTC SERVICE-LEARNING**

by 1SG Thomas



**Only a Few of our Hard-Working, Giving Freshmen Cadets – Mega Hooah!**

JROTC service-learning is an active and experiential learning strategy resulting in students having a direct impact on an identified need that interests and motivates them. It is a learning strategy that fits with our constant theme in 1st Battalion, that is, individuals, while maintaining their unique individuality, should strive to be a member of a TEAM and become a part of something larger than themselves, thereby serving others' needs and the greater good. It's what JROTC is all about.

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Commander Faith Folts and CSM Zach Brodil, along with the company commanders and first sergeants, selected a different service-learning project for their freshmen cadets this year. This project did not involve them or their parents digging deep into their pockets to fund the cause, but rather, **putting forth the effort** to advertise the event and its purpose and “hitting the streets” to encourage themselves, their family, friends, neighbors, parents, parents' co-workers, religious groups, and civic groups to get on board with the idea of helping others. As we all know, our country is going through a very challenging period in our history, and needs at all levels are great.

All cadets in the 9 freshmen companies were charged with collecting non-perishable food items to feed the homeless and needy in our community. I'm sure it will come as no surprise that our freshmen cadets, their leaders, their parents, and the community at-large rose to the challenge! In addition to our freshmen cadets, a big HOOAH goes out to the following SMA staff members: Ms. Elliott, Major Wasserman, Major Schroeder, Captain Mitchell and her classes, and Captain Garrett and her classes for their generous contributions. You all modeled **TEAM** – Thank you!

**A grand total of 7266 food items were collected!** To wrap your brain around how much food that is, it took **two complete loads on our “Deuce-and-a-Half”** to deliver the goods!

Where were they delivered? To a very worthy charity: Mark Sedacca, a former U.S. Army Ranger, runs a street ministry out of Harvest Tabernacle Church that serves hundreds of needy citizens of all denominations (or no denomination) in our community daily. When we drove up with our first load, the folks lined up for food and clothing stretched from the food warehouse, winding to the street.



**Mark Sedacca**



**Mark and his Crew**



**Our “Angel” Cadets Helping w/ Delivery**



**Unloading Food Donations at Mark's/Harvest Tabernacle's Warehouse**

The cadets of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion can feel good about the fact that their efforts will feed fellow citizens tonight. It is hoped that by participating in this worthy cause, the cadets learned that we may not be able to right all the wrongs in the world, but with even a little effort, we can all make a difference in our corner of it. What a valuable lesson we all received. **GIVE A LITTLE: GET A LOT!**

**T-E-A-M = Together Everyone Accomplishes More**