

May 22, 2008

Col Jenrette and Staff,

During my last visit, (Military Ball Weekend), I was absolutely blown away with the change I witnessed in my son and the school in general. I watched my son in parade march with confidence and pride. I saw him perform in the Drill Sword Team and could hardly keep the tears from falling. I witnessed as he introduced me to his instructors and showed the upmost respect for their efforts in helping him achieve his best. He hugged his Mother, he hugged his Aunt, and he hugged me! He explained each badge and ribbon on his uniform. He was proud to have completed the Ranger course. He talked about going to a military college. He talked about goals and a career in the military. He spoke about the frustrations of the responsibility of the twelve 7th & 8th graders he was in charge of, yet you could hear in his voice that he knew he was proud in himself that he could do it. He was proud that he was in such good shape and that his father maybe should follow his routine. He was in fact a person that was much different than the one who showed up on campus last August.

He was different and so was the school. The campus seemed to take on a whole new look. The student body was larger. The buildings looked refreshed. People watched as their sons, grandsons, nephews and brothers marched with purpose. They watched with a sense of pride.

I realize that in my position and with my son, there is still work to be done. However, I will take this time in the year to thank you and your staff for the hard work that went in to making this a successful school year. I tried to thank those personally that had a part in helping my son, in my last visit. It was short sighted however to think that I could possibly know all those who helped him during the year. I am sure that many things were done by many people on a daily basis to assist him that I will never know about. To all, my deepest and sincere THANKS!

John D. Marcous

"A proud parent of Cadet Sgt 1st Class Clay Marcous"

P.S. I hope you will extend this email to your entire staff.