

North Georgia alumnus heals, motivates cadets for training

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(July 6, 2011) **FORT KNOX** --- The dream of becoming a pediatrician changed for 2LT Wesley Albritton when he saw nurses taking care of troops while he was deployed in Iraq.

"When I saw the way the nurses treated the American troops, as well as the enemies, because they had to take care of both of them and treat them all the same, that inspired me to want to be a nurse," he said. "I saw great nurses there."

Albritton earned both his associate's (2009) and bachelor's in nursing (2011) at North Georgia College & State University. This past spring, he commissioned into the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. He is the son of Bill Jenkins and Sherri McDonald of Valdosta and he graduated from Valdosta High School in 2000. He is married to Victoria N. M. Albritton from Maryland.

Albritton is the Bravo Company nurse for the Leader's Training Course (LTC) and is responsible for the general welfare of more than 200 cadets in his company.

The Leader's Training Course is the premier leadership program of its kind in the United States. An intense four-week introduction to Army life and leadership training of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, the aim of the course is to motivate and qualify cadets for entry into the Senior ROTC program.

"You would have to see him in person, and you would instantly be able to tell the type of person he is because it shows," said 2LT Cameron Player, a fellow nurse at LTC. "His personality radiates from him."

Albritton's day starts before the cadets wake, beginning with sick call and going as late as the cadets are training.

"Any problems that cadets are having such as blisters, rolled ankles, sore throat, coughing, sneezing, stomach pains, anything that I can do that I don't have to send them to the troop medical center, I take care of," he said.

He carries a large load of responsibility, making the decision whether cadets go to the clinic or if they need a higher level of care at the hospital, plus running sick call in the morning and evening. He enjoys being with the cadets as much as possible, a result of his prior military service, Albritton said.

"I get to motivate them and heal them so they can continue their training," he said. "The ultimate goal is they're here for a purpose, and my goal as a nurse is to get them back to training so they can reach their goals."

Albritton has a wide variety of tasks he performs daily to ensure the safety and health of Bravo cadets, such as applying mole skin on blistered ankles, giving ibuprofen for pain and medicine for sore throats.

His solid work ethic sets the bar high for his fellow nurses, those who work with him say.

"People that go above and beyond are few in number, and he's one of those people," Player said. "There are some things he doesn't have to do, but he does anyways because he cares about the welfare of everybody."

The end result of his hard work is worth every moment of his long days spent with cadets, Albritton said.

"It's rewarding when the troops come in and say 'thank you' or when the troops come in and they're in extreme pain or something is really bothering them as far as their body goes, and I'm able to fix it or help it to a point where they can continue to train," he said.

Not only does Albritton work well with cadets, he works well with other LTC nurses.

"He is definitely the type of person you want to have on your team because he's always looking out for you," Player said. "He's a really hard worker and he's always doing whatever it takes to excel to put himself one step ahead of the game."

His education at North Georgia and his hands-on experiences as a nurse have prepared him for his everyday duties at LTC.

Albritton said he looks forward to the remaining days of training, healing cadets and motivating them to make it through.

"I'm just very grateful for my experience and I believe that God places everybody where they need to be at the correct time and I think I'm here for a reason, for a purpose," he said.

Visit the university website for more information about [North Georgia's nursing program](#) or the [Corps of Cadets](#).