

We would like to welcome our many new readers.

PlatoonLeader members have increased by 50% in the last month and our community has been reaching out to the farthest corners of the globe! From the deserts of Kuwait and Afghanistan, to the forests of Germany and Kosovo; to the sandy roads of Fort Bragg, Fort Hood, Fort Bliss to the DMZ in Korea - to the motorpool next door - the quality and timeliness of the dialogue and content has marked this as a premiere connector for Army leaders. You are contributing your stories, your ideas, and your wisdom to those about to become, and those that are the leaders of our great Army.

We look forward to you participating with us and making a difference for our profession. It is exciting to imagine every company-level leader across the globe connected and sharing their best ideas and experiences. We invite you to be a part of creating that future.

Enjoy the newsletter!

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1. From our Position: Being at the Decisive Point
2. Leadership for the Future, a Video Online OPD
3. PlatoonLeader University
4. Discussion Threads and Rally Points.
5. Cool Tools: DWI Prevention Presentation

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1. From our Position: Being at the Decisive Point

We all have countless competing demands as leaders - sometimes those pesky urgent needs seem to outweigh our established priorities. On any given day the troops could be spread to the four winds executing a variety of support and training missions. And, oh-by-the-way, they're under your charge as the Platoon Leader. How do we know where to be when there are so many places TO be?

As we've interacted with Platoon Leaders, this consistent theme of where to focus and how to best balance competing demands comes up. Conversations around the "Leader's Decisive Point" have helped us in our thinking.

FM 3-0, the Army's new capstone Operational Document, defines the 'Decisive Point' as "a geographic place, specific key event, or enabling system that allows commanders to gain a marked advantage over an enemy and greatly influence the outcome of an attack."

We can extend this definition metaphorically to leadership. We have all heard that a leader needs to lead from the front, to be at the point of greatest impact or of greatest influence - this is the Decisive Point!

BE at the DECISIVE POINT. BE where you can influence, guide, or direct the actions of your unit. It could be with the night guard at the front gate, it could be at a combat rehearsal for one of your squads, it could be that key counseling you've been putting off. It's the place

in time and/or a location that provides your unit with a clear message of what you value and what's important. Priorities become clearer when you put it in this context.

Have a 'Decisive Point' conversation with your Platoon Sergeant today. Do a quick assessment of your soldiers and current mission (or missions).

What is your Decisive Point today??

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2. Leadership for the Future, a Video Online OPD

The Army and the Department of Defense is going through a mammoth transition while simultaneously fighting a Global War on Terrorism. What impacts will Transformation and the GWOT have on us as Platoon Leaders? How will we need to learn to think as leaders in the rapid decisive operations advocated by Transformation?

The below link to a streaming video OPD comprises the thoughts and ideas of top thinkers from around the world. These leaders, practitioners, and academics have spent an inordinate amount of time thinking, discussing, and debating the future vision of our military and how to maintain our marked advantage over the enemy.

It's applicability to us? WE are that army. WE are its leaders. WE will be the ones to whom the flame is passed. We have a vested interest in what is happening now that will have major impacts in how we fight tomorrow.

It's about a twenty minute long Windows Media streaming video (make sure you have some high-speed internet stuff) that really puts into context what is expected of us as leaders. Get a cup of coffee, watch, or listen while you continue to read email, and let us know what your ideas and thoughts are about what is being said.

View the Clip:

<http://platoonleader.army.mil/article.php?sid=46&mode=flat&order=0>

If you have been or are a PL in a Stryker or Digitized unit we need to hear from you as a profession! If you're on your way to one, sound off with your questions!!

(Contribute to the discussion thread on the IBCT Stryker by clicking below)

<http://platoonleader.army.mil/viewtopic.php?topic=82&forum=3&3>

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3. PlatoonLeader University

It's a little daunting the amount of response we have received since starting the PlatoonLeader University section of the site. Our intent is to provide you with living, breathing OPD's that you can take with

you and use to develop yourself, your peers, and your subordinates. The comments have been great, and we will strive to keep putting up great stuff that will help us all be the most effective leaders we can be.

One of the most hit 'OPD's' is the Little Officer's Instruction Book, donated by COL.(R) P.D. Wells. It is a wonderful set of guiding principles that can be applied to any level of command. COL Wells has graciously given to the force his take on leadership.

<http://platoonleader.army.mil/article.php?sid=33>

StoneCold just added a new case study that examines perceptions of equity: take the challenge!

<http://platoonleader.army.mil/pluniv.php?query=&topic=38>

There are many of you out across the globe who are thinking: 'man, I got something way cool that would be great right here.' If so, send it our way! Email us at: manager@platoonleader.org

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4. Discussion Threads and Rally Points.

The adjust fire missions from the community have been great. At times the level of conversation going on between users across the globe really does remind us of sitting around the O'club on a Friday afternoon trading great stories and best practices. From the user who needed a part number for the butterfly triggers on a loaders M240, to specifics on living in Korea; from crazy discussions about the old instructors at the Chemical School to gathered best practices for preparing to fight in the desert - our community is helping to produce better, more prepared officers because of YOUR willingness to share our best practices!

Lately, we've been tailoring the location of discussion threads to specific areas of interest. They could be branch, or Rally Point (post) specific. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FACILITATING OR MODERATING ANY OF THESE PARTICULAR AREAS OF THE SITE, SO THAT WE CAN COMMUNICATE AND DISCUSS SPECIFIC PRACTICES RELEVANT TO A PARTICULAR BRANCH OR POST, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO EMAIL US AT: manager@platoonleader.org.

We have a vision of PlatoonLeader connecting post and branch specific users together to enjoy each other's company outside the virtual O'club and into the real O'club! If you are interested in getting together in a local forum at your post and want the team to come visit... let us know!

<http://platoonleader.army.mil/forum.php>

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5. Cool Tool: DWI Prevention Presentation

The Holidays are fast approaching. The troops will be out there - what are we doing to mitigate the risk?

StoneCold says: Do your company's safety briefings suck? Do your soldiers groan and roll their eyes when safety is mentioned during close-out formation? If so, stop and ask yourself why. Do they hear the same briefing every week from the same person? Can they hear what's being said? Does the person giving the safety briefing really care about their safety? Off-duty risks pose the biggest threat to our soldiers - we can't afford to miss the opportunity that a safety briefing offers to help identify and mitigate those risks! We recommend following a simple four-step process in order to deliver safety briefings that catch your soldiers' attention and help keep them safe while off-duty:

...Read the rest here, and download the DWI Prevention Presentation:

<http://platoonleader.army.mil/article.php?sid=43&mode=flat&order=0>

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Great user feedback:

"I just wanted to drop a line to tell you that I appreciate the knowledge that you put out on platoonleader.org. I am a 2LT in the MSARNG and I have found the info that you post to be very informative and useful. Keep up the good work."

"The cost of losing in combat is permanent. I am not surprised at all to find officers going out of their way to share their best ideas and to help each other be more effective. Our lives depend on it. The future of our country depends on it."

Fight fiercely!

The Company-Level Leadership Team

www.PlatoonLeader.army.mil

www.CompanyCommand.com

The forum for leaders who are Building Combat-Ready Teams!

Please help the cause by forwarding this newsletter to other leaders. You can register to receive this newsletter by joining the site here:

<http://platoonleader.army.mil/user.php?op=register>

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End Note:

Remember how many times you've gone scrounging for a particular form? Check out the 'Gotta Have Forms" in Microsoft Word format for those forms you always need, but just don't seem to have enough of!

<http://platoonleader.army.mil/>