Cadet Developmental Assessment Guide
How to Do Your Best
on the
Cadet Developmental Assessment

There’s No Substitute for Studying

Preparing for the Cadet Developmental Assessment (CDA) is like studying for any exam. You’ll feel a lot more confident if you review the test’s format and become familiar with its content.

You’ve actually been preparing for this exam all of your ROTC academic life.

The best way to get ready for the CDA is to work hard in your ROTC classes and challenge yourself to improve your studying habits:

- **Learning to read effectively** gives you the ability to figure out what the author means as well as what the author says.

- **Improving your vocabulary** gives you tools to figure out new words from the context in which they are used.

- **Developing your problem-solving abilities** helps you figure out what to do and how to do it and helps you deal with challenging problems even when you think you’re stumped.

**Note:** The CDA guide is merely a guide. The CDA reflects the body of knowledge from the MS I-III experience. The guide **does not** constitute the solution to the CDA. The guide **does** help focus faculty-to-cadet preparation. The purpose of the guide is to reduce uncertainty and increase confidence in the CDA.
1) You are a Cadet Squad Leader serving as a member of the Cadet Chain of Command. The least experienced Squad Leader in your platoon, Cadet Early, has just been assigned as the new Platoon Leader. Upon taking charge, Cadet Early immediately starts telling the platoon members what “fixes” need to be made. When you and your fellow squad leaders offer different ways to address the perceived problems Cadet Early tells his squad leaders “I don’t have to listen to you anymore. I’m the Platoon Leader now.” Describe the implications of the Platoon Leader’s response; and will it achieve the best results?

2) You are a Cadet Platoon Sergeant serving as part of the Chain of Command participating in a Leader Development Exercise (LDX). Two squads from your Platoon start at the same time from opposite ends of a course that is 12 miles long. One squad is marching at 3 mph and the second squad is running at 6 mph. How long after they begin will they meet?

3) You are a Cadet squad leader serving as part of the Cadet Chain of Command (CoC). You notice one of your Cadets, Cadet Tinh, is very withdrawn during training. She often avoids eye contact when you and other members of the Cadet CoC speak to her. You know Cadet Tinh is of Southeast Asian ancestry. You also know her family immigrated to the U.S. 10 years ago. Her spoken English is heavily accented and difficult for some to understand. She is often ignored during training and sometimes even ostracized by others for her aversion to eye contact. From your culture and history studies you know that in some Southeast Asians countries, it is not uncommon for men and women to avoid eye contact in certain social situations. As an Army Cadet and leader you also understand the importance and value of direct communication and eye contact when accomplishing the mission. What would be the BEST and most appropriate action to take given context above?

4) You are a Cadet on a CULP Mission in a predominantly Islamic country. During the initial in-country orientation a local Imam extended an open invitation to all Cadets to visit the mosque as a welcomed guest. One of your fellow Cadets, Cadet Gulam, is an observant Muslim who expressed interest in attending. Though the Mission Commander authorized all cadets to visit the mosque, only Cadet Gulam is going. When Cadet Gulam
went to the mosque during prayer time, you overhear other Cadets making racist remarks. What is the best way to respond to this situation?

5) You are a Cadet Platoon Leader participating in a leader development exercise (LDX). Your mission is to locate, fix, and destroy any sizable enemy forces en route to the march objective some 5 kilometers to the north. Your platoon is the advance guard, and your squad has the point. You expect to encounter lightly equipped infantry forces that generally rely on ambush and hit-and-run tactics. As you move through the rolling, wooded terrain you occasionally make contact with an enemy fire team. What orders and additional actions will you take? Select the optimal multi-part response.

6) You are a Cadet Platoon Leader participating in a leader development exercise (LDX). You receive a mission to negotiate a non-lethal solution to a situation where local nationals in the host Nation were already killed. You’ve been informed that local police conducted a raid on a small residential housing compound believed to be harboring violent criminals. Armed militants within the compound have repulsed the police raid and killed several local policemen and women. Inside the housing compounds are approximately 80 people. About 15 people are thought to be armed and dangerous. The rest - women, children and the elderly - are not considered dangerous. Your platoon is responsible for the sector where this incident is occurring. Local police on the scene want you to authorize military force against the compound to end the siege. From a negotiations standpoint, what is the most effective way to address the concerns of the local police while addressing the overall security situation at hand?

7) You are a Cadet Platoon Leader travelling to a Leader Development Exercise (LDX). You and another Cadet driving cars entered an Interstate highway at the same time and traveled toward each other. The initial distance between cars was 390 miles. The speed of the first car was in 10 miles per hour greater than that of the second car. It took 3 hours for two cars to pass each other. What was the speed of each car?

8) You are a Cadet Platoon Leader participating in a leader development exercise (LDX). As you egress past a village along the route back to the
outpost, you come under heavy fire from the OPFOR. One of your squad leaders begins to take charge. He's charismatic and super aggressive. He is directing Soldiers to break contact and continue bounding back in the direction of the outpost. Your company commander, on the other hand, is on the radio talking to you, and he directs you to "close with and destroy the enemy!" Your commander states he's watching the building from which the enemy is firing at you. What actions should you take?