

Letter from the Grand Consul



Our mission in Sigma Chi is to develop values-based leaders committed to the betterment of character, their campus and their community. In essence, this is about one word: leadership.

When we talk about leadership, we talk about it on many fronts—from the home front to the front lines of the far corners of the world. Since our Founders' time, military leadership has been inextricably intertwined in Sigma Chi history. Today is no different. We have many of our brothers serving in all branches of the military. Through their profession, these men exemplify on a daily basis our Sigma Chi values and ideals of courage, wisdom, integrity, high ambition, self control, courtesy and fidelity.

I would like to take a moment to share an amazing experience I had last month when I saw firsthand how our wonderful men in uniform live these values everyday. Thanks to my nomination by Maj. Brad Gordon, **SOUTH ALABAMA 1994**, who is in the Marine Corps, I was selected to participate in the prestigious Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC). Through the JCOC, the Department of Defense provides the opportunity each year to a small group of industry leaders and top executives from around the country to gain firsthand context of our nation's role in the military. This trip was not about politics. It was about what our men and women in uniform are doing everyday.

This year, the focus of the JCOC was on the U.S. Central Command, whose area of responsibility is the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. For the weeklong tour, each person in our group of 45 civilians was given the rank of a two-star general. We began our mission at the Pentagon, where we were given briefings on how the United States is working with allies to bring security and stability to the Middle East. We were also briefed on how our country is helping to build economic and governmental independence to the region.

Our tour of duty took us to the Army Special Forces base at the Horn of Africa in Djibouti, the Bahrain Naval Station, the U.S. Air Command Complex in Qatar, and the U.S. Army Base in Kuwait that is used as the final staging area prior to troops' entry into Iraq. We flew 18,000 miles in a C-17 aircraft, toured military bases in Black Hawk helicopters, participated in Humvee exercises, received live weapon training on M-16s, 50-caliber

machine guns and long-range sniper rifles, and witnessed hand-to-hand Marine combat training. We were in jets that were catapulted in less than a second at 200 mph off of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier in the Arabian Gulf.

We also experienced the day-to-day living environment of the service members, from sleeping in the barracks to eating MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) to living with the ever-present desert dust to bearing the indescribable heat while wearing 50 pounds of full-body armor.

Of all of the eye-opening experiences, the most inspiring and humbling moments came when I spent one-on-one time with our great men and women from all ranks and branches of the military. What impressed me the most was the courage, bravery, commitment and dedication I found in the troops. It made me think of all the Sigma Chis—past and present—who have served in the military and how they have brought honor and distinction to our Badge.

As your Grand Consul, I cannot begin to tell you how proud, grateful and thankful we are of our military Sigs who protect our freedom and our countries. We want to do what we can to recognize our military brothers for the sacrifice they have made, remembering that the White Cross that we wear is the emblem of sacrifice. On behalf of Sigma Chis everywhere, I would like to thank our brothers who have served in the military by dedicating this issue of *The Magazine of Sigma Chi* to them and by creating a special Sigma Chi pin for all military Sigs, which will be revealed at Grand Chapter on our 152nd birthday this June 28, 2007 in San Jose. I am honored to personally fund the design and development of the Military Pin in recognition of our brothers in uniform who have served and continue to serve our great nation.

Please help us recognize these brothers by holding a special event—whether at an undergraduate chapter meeting or an alumni function—to honor them and present them with the Military Pin. My brothers, I wish you Godspeed.

To our brothers in uniform, thank you for guarding the honor of the White Cross.

In hoc,

Keith Krach
PURDUE 1979

64TH GRAND CONSUL



VISION

To be the preeminent collegiate leadership development organization—aligned, focused and living our core values.

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