Welcome to ALERT Cadet - A Parent’s Guide

WELCOME TO ALERT CADET!

Dear Parents,

We recognize that many of you are just starting on this adventure called ALERT Cadet. We realize that creating a guide with a layout of how you could use the tools that ALERT Cadet offers would be helpful. We have also included other resources that you may find useful in your parenting toolbox.

This booklet is specifically written to serve as a useful resource for ALERT Cadet families. It is an overview of the Cadet experience and explains the awards, ranks, activities, and much more. In this resource you will find information that will assist you in using the ALERT Cadet program to its fullest.

We desire to answer many of your questions about the program here in this booklet. Further information is also available on our website at www.alertcadet.org, or by contacting our office.

Please remember that the ultimate purpose of ALERT Cadet is to deepen your walks with God and each other. We pray this will help lend clarity and depth to what ALERT Cadet has to offer.

As always, if there is any way we can assist you further, please contact us!

Your servants,

The ALERT Cadet Staff
Welcome to ALERT Cadet - A Parent’s Guide

**PICTOGRAPH**

1) Start the Basic Training Manual
2) Advance from Basic Training and earn the rank of Cadet
3) Lay the foundations of faith, character, and skills using the Handbooks

**Ages 7-12**

**PREPARATION**
1) Transition to manhood by completing goals and establishing freedoms and responsibilities
2) Communicate personal testimony

**Ages 13-14**

**PASSAGE**
Recognition of LTC
1) Transition to manhood by completing goals and establishing freedoms and responsibilities
2) Communicate personal testimony

**Ages 14-17**

**PURPOSE**
Ranks of CFC, CSpec, and CCpl
1) Take ownership of Biblical principles
2) Complete the Specialist Project
3) Develop and pursue the who, what, where, when, why, and how of life purpose
THE ALERT CADET TOOLBOX

The ALERT Cadet program exists as a toolbox to assist fathers in turning their hearts to their sons and in leading them into biblical manhood. This booklet is designed to explain the various aspects of our toolbox.

ALERT Cadet Motto & Covenant ........................................ 3

The 3 P’s of ALERT Cadet ................................................. 4
- Preparation ................................................................... 5
- Passage ....................................................................... 7
- Purpose ....................................................................... 9

Moving Forward .................................................................. 13

ALERT Cadet Organizational Structure ..................... 15

ALERT Cadet Uniforms .................................................. 16

ALERT Cadet Curriculum .............................................. 18

ALERT Cadet Son Ranks ............................................... 19

ALERT Cadet Officer Ranks ......................................... 20

ALERT Cadet Awards ................................................... 21

Regional and National Camps .................................... 28

Unit Meetings and Activities ..................................... 29

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) ....................... 30
The ALERT Cadet Motto
The biblical basis for ALERT Cadet is to assist fathers in developing sons who are able to overcome the evil one (from 1 John 2:14).

“Strong to Overcome”

The ALERT Cadet Covenant
The character qualities desired of ALERT Cadet fathers and sons are outlined in our covenant.

By God’s grace,
I will be swift to hear what is true,
And give honor where honor is due.

I will learn what it means to obey
And be truthful in all that I say.

I will be neat in room and dress
And show to others true gratefulness.
THE THREE P’S OF ALERT CADET

The ALERT Cadet experience can be described as having three phases. We call these the Three P’s. Each "P" specializes in a portion of 2 Peter 1:5-7, which is a Biblical picture of growth and maturity.

**Preparation**
A strong foundation of faith, and preparation to enter the Passage.

**Rank:** Cadet  
**Ages:** 8-12  
2 Peter 1:5 – Faith, Virtue, and Knowledge  
**Practical Focus:** Cadet Handbooks.

**Passage**
The transition from boyhood to manhood!

**Recognition:** Leadership Training Corp  
**Ages:** 13-14  
2 Peter 1:6 – Self-Control and Patience  
**Practical Focus:** Demonstration of knowledge and skills by completing goals as determined in the Preparation Phase. Demonstration of maturity.

**Purpose**
Help with focusing in on God’s personal calling.

**Rank:** Cadet First Class  
**Age:** 14-15  
2 Peter 1:6 – Godliness  
**Practical Focus:** Demonstrating Fruit of the Spirit. Be able to lead a Bible Study. Define what you believe about basic doctrinal beliefs, and know why you believe what you believe.

**Rank:** Cadet Specialist  
**Age:** 15-16  
2 Peter 1:7 – Brotherly Kindness  
**Practical Focus:** Demonstration of knowledge and skills by fulfilling the requirements for the Specialist Project. Define what you believe about daily living choices, and know why you believe what you believe.

**Rank:** Cadet Corporal  
**Age:** 16-17  
2 Peter 1:7 – Love  
**Practical Focus:** Defining your life purpose and setting goals to be equipped to fulfill that purpose.

The following pages will help further define each “P”.
The Preparation phase is designed for younger ALERT Cadets. This is an ideal time to use the Cadet tool of curriculum. Use this alongside your school or personal growth goals for your son. Talk as parents about what you would like to see your son learn in skills, then select Specialties to make up each of his Cadet Handbooks. Be sure to ask him what his interests are, too. We all know we make progress in areas we have an interest in, and we drag our feet in areas we don’t like. This is meant to be relationship building, not a burden! If you home school, you may select Specialties in an area you want to study and learn about as a family; you can use our Specialty booklets and your Cadet will get his credit for doing that Specialty. (Please see the Curriculum section of this booklet for more information.)

Looking Ahead!
In addition to assisting your sons to lay the foundations of Faith, Virtue, and Knowledge by working through the curriculum, you need to be preparing for the Passage.

Set goals as parents and then discuss them with your sons. Create a vision for him, and generate excitement. Help him to see this time as a time of preparation for the Passage as well. Your enthusiasm will be contagious and help encourage him toward working on the goals you lay out. (You will find more information and ideas about how this might look in the Passage section.)

Some items to discuss as a couple and define as you look towards the Passage Phase:
1) Determine and define what the actual Passage will look like.
2) What new freedoms and responsibilities will your son be given?
3) How will you mark the Passage as a family?

Part of the application for the Leadership Training Corps (LTC) requires a Cadet to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and write out his personal testimony. Since the Passage represents the transition to manhood, and fathers entering into ALERT Cadet must write their testimony, we feel that this is a must in order for a young man to earn LTC.
Resources for the Preparation Phase

How I Helped My Boys to Become Christian Men – an article by Dr. Vern Poythress.

Plants Grown Up – Lots of Bible study and life skills projects for boys at all stages to help them grow in virtue and knowledge. This resource also follows 2 Peter 1:5-7.

Modern Day Knights – Robert Lewis shares how he prepared and took his sons though the Passage to manhood.

You Can’t Make Me (But I Can Be Persuaded) – From plenty of personal experience, as well as many conversations, Cynthia Tobias explains how to work with and raise strong willed children.

Boys Should Be Boys – Dr. Meg Meeker (Pediatrician, Christian, Parent) discusses perspectives on raising sons and the errant modern trend to raise boys like girls.

Simple Truths – This mini curriculum was developed to help parents make the most of their opportunities to shape the sexual character of their children. Mary Flo Ridley encourages parents to have a good offense for discussing sexuality with their children from a biblical foundation, beginning with baby steps at a young age when they start to ask questions.

Parenting 911 – Michael Youssef shows you the importance of focusing on a child’s identity in Christ and not just on his or her outward performance.

Shepherding a Child’s Heart – Written for parents with children of any age, Tedd Tripp provides perspectives and procedures for shepherding your child’s heart into the paths of life; it gives fresh biblical approaches to child rearing.

If you just joined ALERT Cadet and find yourself here with a 12-14 year old, we urge you to consider reading through the Preparation section and working toward creating a Passage for your son to transition to manhood.

**Leadership Training Corp**

1 Corinthians 13:11 says, “When I was a child, I spake as a child... but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” The ALERT Cadet Leadership Training Corps is a mark of passage whereby a son, under his parents training and instruction, has decided to put away childish things and become a man. This is something that has been prepared for and while it is an event, it is also a process — becoming a man doesn’t happen overnight.

It is very difficult to replace a bad foundation of a house that has already been built. One reason for having this passage between the ages of 12-14 is so that a young boy can focus on some foundational issues of becoming and being a man before he reaches puberty. During puberty, common problems young men face have a lot to do with lack of identity and the ambiguity about manhood that is currently prevalent in our society today. Starting on that journey of physical, hormonal and mental growth, with a basis of self-control and patience, as well as the knowledge of what a man is, will help to provide a foundation upon which to build the rest of his life and to not be distracted by not knowing when manhood will arrive, as so many youth today are.

The desire is Christian manhood. Fathers, you must model the Biblical picture of Christian manhood for your entire family. As parents, you must clearly present that picture of Christian manhood to your son. Only then will your son have a mark to pursue. Not that we are trying to duplicate ourselves in each child, but as Paul said, "Be ye followers of me, even as I am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1) Make sure this passage is not a list of goals only, but building relationships and bearing fruit!

The ALERT Cadet recognition of Leadership Training Corps signifies the Passage. When your son has completed the goals you set for him and made the choice to leave childish ways behind, you naturally define new freedoms and responsibilities for him. Now is the time to fill out the LTC
application and get the LTC epaulet loops for his ALERT Cadet uniform. By joining the Leadership Training Corp, each Cadet must begin the journey of taking on responsibilities and leadership for those around him. The focus should not be on “lording it over” others, but rather, to become a servant to others; that he would proactively take steps to do unto others what he would want done to himself. He can start at this young age, especially by helping to lead younger brothers, or younger men in the Unit.

**Resources for the Passage Phase**

*Do Hard Things (A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations)* – Combating the idea of adolescence as a vacation from responsibility, Alex and Brett Harris weave together biblical insights, history, and modern examples to redefine the teen years as the launching pad of life and map a clear trajectory for long-term fulfillment and eternal impact.

(Many of the resources for Preparation are also applicable for this phase as well.)
One of the biggest challenges for young men nearing or at the end of high school is that they lack definition in life, and they are often unsure of what's next. As parents, you can assist your son in finding this definition in life and help him discern what God is wanting him to do. The ranks within this Purpose phase all have aspects to their requirements that will assist your son in learning more about God and himself so he can hone in a bit more and help make these decisions easier. Let's take a look at these ranks.

**Cadet First Class**
One of the requirements on the Cadet First Class application is for a young man to define what he believes about basic doctrinal beliefs, and to know why he believes what he believes.

Dads, we want to encourage you to choose topics of doctrine and share your personal journey of understanding. Then ask your son to study it for himself and then come together again for your son to share with you his findings. Topics could include: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, Creation, Salvation, Baptism, Heaven and Hell, etc. Don’t just quote a catechism; this must be personal and heart to heart.

*Picture this as your children's "Faith Bag."*
Everyone has a Faith Bag. Up to now you have been teaching your son what to believe about God, Scripture, Creation, etc., filling his Faith Bag. At some point in all our lives, usually during early adulthood, we unpack this bag and examine its contents one by one. We choose to either keep an item as is, or make slight modifications. Alternatively, we may toss away the item altogether. As you prepare your son, share your own experience of "unpacking and repacking" your Faith Bag.

We can guide our children as they unpack and repack their Faith Bags, but the decisions must be theirs. If they don't own it they won't live it. As they enter adulthood and embark on a life more separate from their parents, whatever is in their Faith Bag will become their foundation for life. As children go through this necessary process, give them reputable tools: Bible study aids, biographies of Godly men and woman, and trusted mentors, allowing them to examine doctrines so they will own them. Encourage your children to always evaluate what they believe through the light of Scripture. It is vitally important for each person to
repack their own Faith Bag before being confronted with the temptations that come with adult freedoms. It's critical that their foundation be rock solid! Once the son knows what he believes, sharing this with others will help solidify this. One requirement for Cadet First Class is that your son lead a Bible Study. Work with him to develop this skill.

**Cadet Specialist**

At this point, it’s time for your son to refine his skills and to teach them to others with the Specialist Project. The Project should be a life interest that your son has and a life skill he is interested in learning in depth; this gives him the opportunity to pursue some basic knowledge in an area, to find out if it is something he would like to pursue further – perhaps as a ministry tool or a vocation. Approved Specialist projects will become an ALERT Cadet curriculum Specialty.

Alongside the Specialist Project, you will be taking another step with your son as he defines his own beliefs. Now that your son has an understanding into why he believes something, it is important for him to define his beliefs about daily living choices, such as appearance, behavior, conduct, entertainment, morality, etc. Do the same as you did before. Start with sharing your stand in these areas and your Scriptural basis. Remember that these are areas where Scripture is not so clear and specific. God is a father, and just like your children, His are not all the same. We can’t expect God to raise us all the same way in our walks with Him. Does your son feel secure enough in his relationship with you to share his heart and his findings as he seeks God in these areas? Will he fear your response if it is not exactly the same as your belief? You can almost guarantee that he will differ in some way. After all, do you share 100% of the same standards of life from your father? Is it a standard or a preference? Learn to seek the Heavenly Father together in these areas and use this to draw your relationships closer, rather than apart.

It seems that one reason why a number of older sons and daughters pull away, and even stray, is because they have no desire to seek the Father’s heart, to deepen their relationship with Him. When the children in our lives enter this world, we dedicate them to the Lord, to raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Yet somewhere along the line we forget that, as such, it is our responsibility as the role models to continually point them to the Father. We worry about personally losing
their heart, instead of teaching them to seek the Father’s heart. We teach them to hold to our values, rather than teach them to study God’s Word and seek Him for direction and purpose for their own values.

**Our Faith Bag is also our Survival Kit for life.**

When camping or hiking it is vitally important to carry a survival kit. The kit should contain things like a compass, first aid supplies, a fire kit, a whistle, a flashlight, etc. A well-stocked Survival Kit may mean the difference between life and death if we become lost or injured in the wilderness. But it also adds extra bulk and weight. At times, we may not see the importance of carrying a Survival Kit, especially on a short hike or not far from home. But it is precisely in those circumstances that most injuries and "lost person" incidences occur.

The same is true in our journey of life. A properly stocked Faith Bag will help guide and protect us. It will also give us the help we need in tough situations or a crisis, spiritually, morally, ethically, or otherwise. Guide your son in using the doctrines and Scriptural principles in his Faith Bag to determine his standards and choices in appearance, behavior, conduct, entertainment, morality, etc. Show him real examples in every day life, such as going to different stores, evaluating movies and internet, choices in clothing. If the option aligns with the truths in his Faith Bag (Scripture) it’s good. If not, it should be rejected. If they truly believe and own the items in their Faith Bag/Survival Kit, they will not reexamine its contents in light of temptation. They will examine temptation in light of God’s truth and reject worldliness for the joy and thrill of God's ways.

**Cadet Corporal**

It is time for your son to make a game plan for what’s next based on his interests, direction from God, and advice from parents.

In order to help your son focus in on interests and calling, there is a simple exercise you can do with your son. Have him take a sheet of paper and write out (in no particular order) all the things that interest or define him, things he likes and would like to do, things he feels he would like to be part of his life and ministry. *At the end of his life, what he would like to be remembered for?*

You are not looking for anything in particular here. You might have
thoughts like: relationship with God, church, missions, vocation options, skills, children’s ministry, family, friends, education, healthy eating; you might even have future wife and family on this list.

Now take these and try to narrow them down to the top ten. Some topics can be grouped together. For example: the topic may be “Relationship with God”, then under that it may say “Daily Prayer” and “Scripture Memory”. These would be goals under that priority. Write these topics on 10 index cards and put them in order of priority.

After you assist your son in doing this exercise, have him evaluate opportunities through this list. The options that best line up with the most index cards are ones that will best fit his interests and desired skills. They will also be more likely to become a significant part of his future. This is a way to narrow down a myriad of options to find what best fits him. It is amazing how helpful this is! It is good to sit down once a year or so and see if the priority cards still remain the same.

Do you know what a rhema is? There are two primary Greek words that describe Scripture which are translated “word” in the New Testament. The first, logos, refers principally to the total inspired Word of God. The second is rhema, which refers to the spoken word. More specifically, a rhema is a verse or portion of Scripture that the Holy Spirit brings to our attention with application to a current situation or need for direction. Has God already given you a rhema for a life focus?

Resources for the Purpose Phase

**Living Water Publications** – Reaching the lost and equipping Christians with resources to fulfill the great commission.

**Meditation Worksheets** – Meditation worksheets can be helpful in learning to study Scriptures. They can be found at: http://ati.iblp.org/ati/family/curriculum/worksheets/

**Dream Giver** – Bruce Wilkinson shows how to identify and overcome obstacles that keep millions from living the life they were created for.

**The Life Purpose Planning Workbook** – Developed to support students as they seek God’s purpose for their life.
What happens next? The big picture of ALERT Cadet is based on the concept of discipleship. It starts with fathers turning their hearts towards their sons and leading them into biblical manhood. However, the goal of discipleship should always have a multi-generational perspective. In keeping with this idea, the next step in the goal for fathers, and probably the most crucial part, should be that these sons then begin to influence and disciple others, especially their own sons, once they are married.

We can learn from Scripture the importance of this principle. Many times in the Old Testament, God would instruct the Israelites to train their children in the knowledge of the LORD, and in remembering the works of God. However, those children would not pass on that instruction to their own children. God would do a mighty work in the nation of Israel, and within two generations the people could be following after other gods. Paul speaks of this principle in 2 Timothy, when he instructs Timothy to take what he received from Paul and, in turn, commit it to "faithful men" who would teach others also.

**Cadet Sergeant Ranks**

Once an ALERT Cadet reaches the age of 18, they have the option to apply for the rank of Cadet Sergeant. The Sergeant rank correlates to whatever rank they achieved before turning 18.

The role of the Cadet Sergeant is one of servant leadership. As part of this, promotion to Sergeant will be given to those Cadets who remain an active member in ALERT Cadet and actively seek to serve the needs of their unit. It is given to an ALERT Cadet who is already taking up various responsibilities to lead, guide, and instruct younger Cadets, under the authority and direction of his father and Unit leader.

The purpose behind having the ALERT Cadet Sergeant ranks is to give older Cadets the opportunity to remain an active part of their ALERT Cadet units. This can open up the opportunity for an older Cadet to encourage and motivate younger Cadets in their own progression through the ALERT Cadet program.
The focus of the Cadet Sergeant should be that of a servant-leader. This means that their goal is to meet the needs of their Cadet Unit, to encourage and build up the members of that Unit.

**Opportunities for Sergeants**
Part of the reason for promoting Cadets to Sergeant is to "give honor where honor is due." The rank of Sergeant is a way to recognize those Cadets who have progressed through the ALERT Cadet program and have continued on to serve their Units.

The Sergeant rank that a Cadet will be promoted to will correlate to the Cadet rank he promoted to before he turned 18 (as shown on page 19). However, he can still promote through the Sergeant ranks as long as he remains active and fulfills the requirements for promotion.

**Requirements for Cadet Sergeant Promotion**
- Demonstrate growth in these qualities as a servant leader among his Cadet Unit: humility, patience, discretion, and endurance.
- Teach a skill during an ALERT Cadet Unit meeting.
- Plan and lead an entire ALERT Cadet Unit meeting in which the Cadet Sergeant recruits a guest to teach a skill.
- Complete two Phases in the ALERT Cadet Handbook in which he is currently working.
- Complete a scored PT test with his Unit or his family.
The basic element of ALERT Cadet is: a father and his sons. Fathers serve as the leadership in the ALERT Cadet program, so a young man is always under the direct authority of his father. A father and his sons may participate in a local unit and its activities, if one is available.

An ALERT Cadet unit is comprised of three or more families in a geographic area who have completed their Basic Training Manual. Information on establishing or maintaining a unit may be found in the ALERT Cadet publications, Forming a New ALERT Cadet Unit and ALERT Cadet Leadership Manual, respectively.

Area and regional leaders – Cadet Captains and Majors – organize camps, service projects, and special activities in their respective geographic locations. Units can also initiate their own activities as well. To do this just contact your area Captain or Major, or contact the ALERT Cadet Headquarters.

The ALERT Cadet Headquarters staff strive to meet the day-in and day-out needs of the Cadet families, units, Captains, and Majors.

The Commanding Officer of the ALERT Cadet program holds the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel. His role is to administer the program, direct the activities, be a resource to the unit, area, and regional leaders, and serve the ALERT Cadet fathers. He also functions as the “vision keeper” for the program.

The ALERT Cadet commanding officer is under the International ALERT Academy’s (IAA) commanding officer, who holds the rank of Colonel. IAA is the parent organization of ALERT Cadet, and was started in 1994 with the vision of preparing generations of sons and daughters to be servants of Christ. It accomplishes this vision by creating and sponsoring materials and programs to assist parents in the maturing of their children. IAA is a recognized Christian, non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization, incorporated in Texas.
Welcome to ALERT Cadet - A Parent's Guide | 16

**ALERT CADET UNIFORMS**

Name Tape (centered above pocket)

Approved *Aviation Insignia*

On both shoulder epaulets, Cadet LTC loop or Pinnacle Tab or Officer’s Rank Insignia (1/4” from seam and aligned with angle of seam)

*Presidential Service Award, EMT-B, EMT-P, or other approved awards (centered on pocket flap)

Ribbon Awards (centered 1/8” above pocket)

Father’s Arrow (centered on pocket flap)

Cadet Chambray

Right Sleeve

2” spacing from shoulder seam

Left Sleeve

Approved Country Flag

Rank stripes (sons only) (3/4” spacing below patch, centered on crease)

* Awards not offered by ALERT Cadet, but approved to wear as they are in support of ALERT Cadet goals.
The purposes of the ALERT Cadet uniform are identification, recognition, and motivation. At any time during Basic Training, a father and son may purchase their duty uniform. Upon Advancement, they may receive an ALERT Cadet chambray, completing their duty-dress uniform.

The chambray uniform shirt may be either long or short sleeved. Generally, the long sleeve chambray is preferred with the dress uniform; however, the short sleeve chambray may also be worn.

Description of ALERT Cadet Uniforms

The **dress uniform** is only worn for formal occasions, such as award ceremonies, parades, and presentation of the national flag.

The **duty-dress uniform** is worn for every ALERT Cadet activity, such as for unit meetings and other events where the formality of the dress uniform is not required, unless otherwise specified.

The **duty uniform** is worn for some physical training activities, recreation, service projects, and other work-related activities.

The **PT uniform** is worn exclusively for physical training.
Basic Training Manual
The ALERT Cadet Basic Training Manual is designed to teach skills and character related to the ALERT Cadet Covenant. Various activities and projects focus on developing the character qualities of alertness, honor and respect for authority, obedience, truthfulness, orderliness, and gratefulness. The Basic Training Manual can be completed in two weeks or less.

Handbooks
ALERT Cadet sons and their fathers progress through a series of seven ALERT Cadet handbooks (Novice, Pilgrim, Craftsman, Servant, Soldier, Truth Seeker, and Life Giver) designed to take an ALERT Cadet son from being a child to being a man. Each handbook consists of six phases. Each phase has two parts: the Foundation and the Specialty. The Foundation includes Scripture memory, Scripture meditation, prayer, journaling, and physical training. Fathers and sons may choose their six Specialties, targeted to meet their interests, for each handbook. The Specialty includes character development, life skills training, and either adventure projects or opportunities for service. It is up to each father’s discretion as to what pace he and his son progress through the material, perhaps pausing to focus on specific character attributes or life lessons. (We are in the beginning phases of rewriting ALERT Cadet curriculum to be based on the Foundation/Specialty model. Look for more in the near future.)
Sons are awarded ranks as recognition of their character, skills, and leadership abilities. For more information on the vision, details, and requirements for each rank, see pages 4-13. The ranks are shown from lowest to highest.

**Cadet**
This is the entrance rank for those sons completing the ALERT Cadet Basic Training Manual.

**LTC – Leadership Training Corps**

**Cadet First Class (CFC)**

**Cadet Specialist (CSpec)**

**Cadet Corporal (CCpl)**

**Cadet Sergeants (CSgt, CSSgt, CSFC, CMSgt)**
The sergeant rank is available to aged 18 and older ALERT Cadet sons who choose to continue to actively assist their unit leaders in leading the unit. The level of sergeant is based on the young man’s attained rank as an ALERT Cadet. Sergeants should remove the burgundy LTC loops; they are now in a position of authority and responsibility.
The rank of a father represents his position within the ALERT Cadet organization. The ranks are shown from lowest to highest.

**Cadet Warrant Officer (CWO)**
Every Cadet father, at the time of Advancement from Basic Training, is commissioned to the rank of Warrant Officer.

**Cadet 2nd Lieutenant (C2ndLt.)**
Each unit leader initially holds this rank when there is only one squad in the unit. Squad leaders in units with multiple squads also hold this rank.

**Cadet 1st Lieutenant (C1stLt.)**
Each unit leader with squad leaders under him holds this rank.

**Cadet Captain (CCapt.)**
Each Cadet Captain is an area leader for the ALERT Cadet organization. He is a member of the Senior Leadership Team and is responsible for area-wide activities and for shepherding the units and distant families in his jurisdiction.

**Cadet Major (CMaj.)**
Each Cadet Major is a regional leader for the ALERT Cadet organization. He is also a member of the Senior Leadership Team and is responsible for region-wide activities and the Captains under his jurisdiction.

**Cadet Lieutenant Colonel (CLt.Col.)**
The ALERT Cadet commanding officer holds this rank.

**Colonel (Col.)**
The International ALERT Academy commanding officer holds this rank.
Most of the awards in ALERT Cadet are recognized by presentation of military-style ribbons that are worn on the dress uniform or on the duty-dress uniform at the discretion of the unit leader. Ribbons are awarded for:

- Courageous actions
- Service to others
- Scripture memory
- Progress through the handbooks
- Physical fitness
- Participation in ALERT Cadet sponsored activities

Fathers are encouraged and eligible to earn most of the same awards as their sons. The engagement of the father in the ALERT Cadet program will determine the success of the son as well.

All ribbons, once earned, may be worn by the ALERT Cadet father or son, regardless of future events. For example, if the Physical Fitness Excellence ribbon is earned at one test, but not the next, the ribbon is not forfeited.

The available ribbons are listed below and are in the order they attach to the ribbon backing, or “rack.” This order is called “precedence” and begins in the upper left corner, as you face the wearer.

Stars are placed on the ribbon to recognize further achievement in the same category. For example, the award for completion of the first phase of the *Novice Handbook* is the Novice ribbon, but the award for completion of the second phase in the *Novice Handbook* is a bronze star. A silver star is used in place of five bronze stars and denotes the completion of the *Novice Handbook*. 
For awards where it is possible to earn recognition more than six times, a combination of bronze, silver, and gold stars is used. No more than four stars total per ribbon. Gold stars are always worn to the wearer’s right (viewer’s left) of any subsequent stars, followed by silver stars.

### Currently Available Ribbons
(Listed in Precedence Order)

#### Father Award (fathers only)
Awarded to ALERT Cadet fathers to signify sons who have reached 18 years of age. These sons must have been active in the ALERT Cadet program for at least 1 year, and either function as Sergeants or no longer participate in the ALERT Cadet program. The arrowhead and silver numeral on the ribbon indicate the number of sons the father has “released into the world.”

#### Commendation
Awarded for courageous action while saving or attempting to save a life. This award must be applied for and be approved by the ALERT Cadet commanding officer.

#### Citation
Awarded for courageous action not involving the saving of a life. This award must be applied for and be approved by the ALERT Cadet Commanding Officer.
ALERT CADET AWARDS

Personal Excellence
Awarded for excellence in completing an ALERT Cadet handbook. To qualify, an ALERT Cadet father or son must:

- Demonstrate the qualities of discernment, honor, obedience, honesty, neatness and gratefulness.
- Complete the handbook within a 12-month period.
- Earn the Good Conduct ribbon for each phase of the handbook.
- Earn the Journal ribbon for the year in which the handbook was completed.
- Earn the Swordsman Award for the handbook.

This award must be applied for and be approved by ALERT Cadet Headquarters.

Psalm 119 Scripture Memory
Awarded for memorization of Psalm 119. Recitation must be completed in one sitting, with up to twelve helps or prompts.

Journal
Awarded for 365 consecutive daily entries in the ALERT Cadet Journal, or a similar binder, without a skipped day. The father should check a son’s journal weekly to verify all 7 days’ journal completion. At the father’s discretion, sons are allowed to go back and complete 1 or 2 days missed during the week.

Cadet Service
Awarded by the ALERT Cadet Commanding Officer for exemplary service to the ALERT Cadet organization.

Personal Service
Awarded for 100 cumulative hours of service to widows, orphans, or church and governmental authorities. If possible, a report should be given at an ALERT Cadet unit meeting or awards ceremony before receiving the award.

Unit Service
Awarded for completing significant service projects to widows, orphans, or other persons in need at the request of church or governmental
authorities. At least 75% of the active members of the unit must participate with an average of 25 man-hours per participant. Only those who satisfy the 25 man-hours per person requirement may wear the award. The award must be earned within one calendar year.

**Disaster Deployment**
Awarded for participation with an ALERT or ALERT Cadet sponsored deployment in relief or clean-up efforts in the aftermath of a disaster for a minimum of 25 hours.

**Good Conduct**
Awarded for completion of all the requirements of a phase, including the journal requirements within six weeks. The award may be given once for each phase completed in each handbook.

**Phase Scripture Memory**
Awarded for recitation of one complete phase’s Scripture memory verses in one sitting, with up to three helps or prompts. This award may be given once for each phase completed in each handbook.

**Handbook Award**
Awarded for completion of the phases of a handbook. The higher handbook awards are worn above the lower ones in precedence order.

- Life Giver
- Truth Seeker
- Soldier
- Servant
- Craftsman
- Pilgrim
- Novice

**Crisis Response Training**
Awarded for completion of an ALERT Cadet sponsored, or ALERT Cadet approved, Crisis Response Training course that includes:
Basic First Aid and CPR (age appropriate)
- Incident command structure overview
- Basic land search and recovery skills
- Sawyer (chain saw) safety, use, and practical experience (age appropriate)
- Personal emergency preparedness training and equipment preparation
- Map reading and compass skills
- Outdoor survival and preparation skills
- Written exams and a practical exercise to demonstrate proficiency in the above subjects

Physical Fitness Excellence
Awarded for scoring at least 290 points on an ALERT Cadet Physical Fitness Test. This award may only be earned twice in a calendar year, at least four months apart. Details and scoring tables may be found at alertcadet.org/members/physical-fitness-training-and-testing.

Pressing-On Excellence
Awarded in recognition of God’s physical or mental design in the life of an ALERT Cadet father or son who may not be able to meet the requirements for the Physical Fitness Excellence or Psalm 119 Scripture Memory awards, but completes the spirit of either of those awards to the best of his God-given ability.

High Adventure Camp Participation
Awarded for participation in an ALERT Cadet sponsored High Adventure Camp.

LTC Camp Participation
Awarded for participation in an ALERT Cadet sponsored LTC Camp.

Father & Son Camp Participation
Awarded for participation in an ALERT Cadet Father & Son Camp.

ALERT Cadet Challenge Leadership
Awarded for participation as a squad leader, assistant squad leader, or event assistant at an ALERT Cadet Challenge. May also be awarded to fathers who assist in a leadership role at an ALERT Cadet Challenge.
ALERT Cadet Challenge Participation
Awarded for participation in an ALERT Cadet Challenge.

ALERT Cadet Quest Participation
Awarded for participation in the Quest program.

Additional Awards

**Swordsman Award** (shoulder braid; color varies for each handbook)
Awarded for recitation of the memory work for a complete handbook (all six phases) in one sitting with no more than nine helps or prompts.

Novice Handbook ................. Blue braid
Pilgrim Handbook .............. Blue/White braid
Craftsman Handbook .......... Yellow braid
Servant Handbook ............ Burgundy braid
Soldier Handbook .......... Burgundy/White braid
Truth Seeker Handbook .... Burgundy/Gold braid
Life Giver Handbook .......... White/Gold braid

A Swordsman Braid can only be earned for current or past Handbooks, and is able to be worn at the time of earning.

When an ALERT Cadet father or son earns multiple braids, only the highest level of completion braid should be worn on the left shoulder.
Distinguished Service Award
The Distinguished Service Award is presented by the Commanding Officer to Cadet Sergeants that have gone above and beyond their role of locally serving in their unit. This award is recognized by a silver diamond centered on the three rank stripes of a Sergeant. Any Senior Leader that notices that a Cadet Sergeant is serving on a regional, national, or international level may nominate him for this award to the Commanding Officer of ALERT Cadet.

The Pinnacle Award
The foundation of the Pinnacle Award is based on Philippians 3; I have not yet arrived, I press on!

Pinnacle is a way that ALERT Cadet gives special recognition to a young man who has worked hard and completed the following list of requirements. It is the recognition of a height gained on this adventure, but the young man recognizes that there are many more pinnacles in life to reach.

- Before age of 18
- Must have promoted to Cadet Corporal
- Servant Handbook completed
- Personal Excellence Award
- Either Personal Service or Unit Service Award
- Crisis Response Training Award

Those Cadets who have achieved the Pinnacle Award will be marked by several additions to their uniform.

- They will receive a Pinnacle tab that will be worn on their chambray (and the field jacket) above the Cadet patch.

Father’s Arrow
Awarded to fathers for each son who has become an official member of ALERT Cadet. The father wears this award on the left pocket centered above the button. A number on the arrow signifies the number of sons involved in the ALERT Cadet program. As sons enter or leave the program, a new arrow with the appropriate number may be purchased from ALERT Cadet Headquarters.
ALERT Cadet Headquarters and the ALERT Cadet Senior Leadership Team plan activities each year and post the details on the website at www.alertcadet.org. The website contains the latest information on these activities, as well as detailed packing lists, event descriptions, and schedules. Some examples of these activities are listed below.

High Adventure Camps
Older Cadets who are ready and willing to be stretched spiritually, physically, and mentally, can apply for these 1-2 week camps. Each camp focuses on advanced challenges or technical skill sets that build comradery and brotherhood among the participants. The primary emphasis during these camps is to encourage each cadet to further develop his relationship with God and others through training in servant leadership.

Leadership Training Corps Camps
These are 3-7 day camps for young men, 13-17 years of age, who have been given the recognition of LTC. The purpose of the camps is for these LTC Cadets to learn discipline, spend extended time in the Scriptures, and experience a deep level of physical challenge. LTC Cadets are trained in leadership skills and are given opportunities to apply them. Fathers are welcome to attend with their sons.

Father & Son Regional Camps
Fathers and sons work together to complete adventure activities, do service projects, receive training, and learn from dynamic speakers. These 3-7 day camps may be held at the International ALERT Academy in Big Sandy, Texas, or regionally. For information on camps in your area, visit the ALERT Cadet website at www.alertcadet.org

Disaster Relief Deployments
One of the main goals of the ALERT program is to equip young men with the skills, character, and desire to respond to disasters. Local ALERT Cadet units are notified of many ALERT deployments so that they may serve alongside ALERT men. At all times, ALERT Cadet young men serve alongside their fathers.

Crisis Response Training
Well-trained ALERT Cadet fathers and sons are better able to assist government leaders in responding to local crises. Crisis Response Training
UNIT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

is designed for fathers and sons to learn specific skills to equip them to serve in disaster settings. They may serve either alongside a deployed ALERT team or as an ALERT Cadet unit under a local governmental authority. This training may also be offered in conjunction with ALERT Cadet sponsored camps.

Unit Meetings
For those who are able to participate in a local unit, regular meetings are held to teach life skills, to recognize achievement, and to encourage one another. Meeting frequency is determined by the fathers, but most units meet twice a month. All fathers and sons are welcome to attend the unit meetings regardless of whether or not they have completed the Basic Training Manual (BTM). Younger sons (under eight years) may also be allowed to attend if supervised by their fathers and with the unit leader’s permission.

Award Ceremonies
Many ALERT Cadet units hold recognition ceremonies or dinners in both the April/May and the November/December time frames. ALERT Cadet fathers and their sons are recognized for special achievements and for awards earned in the previous six months. This is also a time when mothers, daughters, and other family members are able to join in the recognition and see the work their husbands and sons have completed and the progress they have made in character development and life skills.

Service Projects
Service projects are designed to develop servants’ hearts in ALERT Cadet fathers and sons. Projects are done under the authority of church leaders or local civil authorities and may be completed as a family, or in conjunction with other ALERT Cadet units in the area.

Community Service Activities
Units may also come together to serve those in authority through color guard presentations, parades, or community service activities.

Adventure Outings
Adventure outings provide time for fathers and sons to invest in each other while enjoying the outdoors or developing new life skills. Outings such as hikes, camps, and bicycle or canoe trips may be planned in conjunction with other units.
Who is eligible to participate in ALERT Cadet?
All Christian fathers and sons are eligible to join and participate in the ALERT Cadet program. To serve as a unit leader, however, the father must sign a statement of faith and agree to uphold the leadership requirements for an ALERT Cadet leader. Our statement of faith and leadership applications can be found on our website.

What is expected of fathers in ALERT Cadet?
The father has the role of assisting his son through the ALERT Cadet program. Fathers have the unique opportunity to shepherd their son’s heart toward biblical manhood using the ALERT Cadet program as a toolbox. Fathers are encouraged to complete the handbook material with their sons and actively participate in all unit meetings, service projects, adventure outings, and physical training. Our many years of working with fathers and sons has shown us that the involvement of the father is critical to the success of a son and of the ALERT Cadet program.

Are fathers required to complete the handbooks?
No. Fathers are not required to complete the handbooks, but it can be encouraging to the son when the father actively participates with his son in what he is learning and doing. One of the goals of ALERT Cadet is to provide tools for a father to disciple his son. The curriculum is a part of that. The time you spend with your son in his projects allows you to speak into his life. A father should work together with his son on projects, assign handbook sections, and check his completed work.

Are fatherless young men excluded?
If a young man’s father is at all involved in his life, he should participate with the son. If there is not a father in the young man’s life, it is permissible to have a male relative (uncle, grandfather, or older brother), or another father or older young man act as the young man’s accountability partner in the ALERT Cadet program. Caution is necessary, however as many activities require the father to give specific input and vision to the son. An ALERT Cadet Captain or Major must approve all situations where the father is not involved on a case-by-case basis.
How much time will the program require?
In order to make steady progress in the curriculum, the ALERT Cadet program involves the daily disciplines of Journal writing, Scripture memorization, and physical exercise. An additional 1-2 hours per week are required to make steady progress in the handbooks. Many units meet every two weeks, while some meet weekly, and others meet once per month. Occasional camping trips and service projects are also scheduled.

How may we involve sons younger than eight years?
Those sons younger than eight years are welcome to attend the meetings and other activities of the unit upon the approval of all the active fathers in the unit. These sons will be greatly encouraged and motivated by seeing the older young men complete their handbooks and learn new skills. As the younger sons mature, they should begin working through the Basic Training Manual. However, a son may not join ALERT Cadet until he turns eight years old. A wise father may want to set a goal for his seven year-old to complete his BTM before his eighth birthday in order to receive his uniform on his birthday! If a son is in Basic Training, it is the discretion of the officer in charge of the event or activity that determines whether or not the son may participate.

My son is older, where do I start?
Your starting point is two-fold. First, after you complete the Basic Training Manual, you should start into the curriculum, which provides the opportunity for you to spend quality time with your son. Second, you should study the first two phases of ALERT Cadet, Preparation and Passage (pages 5-8). You need to talk with your son about the goals you have for him as he transitions into manhood. As soon as he has fulfilled those goals, you should recognize him as an LTC (page 7). It is permissible to apply for more than one promotion at a time, if your son has completed the requirements for them.

I have a special needs son. How can I assist him in being successful in ALERT Cadet?
The ALERT Cadet program is a toolbox for fathers. As such, you are welcome to adjust it as you need to in order to accomplish those goals. If needed, you can adjust the curriculum requirements to match your son’s ability. If you need help, please feel free to ask your unit leader,
Captain, and/or Major. We have many special needs families, and they are quite successful with ALERT Cadet!

**How may I involve my entire family in ALERT Cadet?**

The primary way families can be involved in ALERT Cadet is to encourage the fathers and sons as they progress through the program. It should be significant when an award or rank is earned. Make them feel special.

A father can choose to involve the rest of his family in any part of the curriculum that he and his sons are working on. For example, a family can choose to memorize the same scriptures, or to learn the skill together. Homeschool moms may want to have input into what specialties their sons do, in order to count the skills training as part of their schooling.

There can also be ways of involving families in unit activities. Several units have chosen to have the ladies meet at the same time as the men, then come together for a potluck style meal. Special events like camping trips or day trips can be done as families at times, though be sure to give the guys room to work on their bonding, too. Also, the wives and daughters can help organize and host awards banquets and ceremonies.

**May I start the handbooks immediately after finishing the Basic Training Manual?**

Yes. However, fathers and sons must apply for membership before they begin the handbooks. Handbook materials are sent upon approval of each membership application; they are not available for purchase without membership in ALERT Cadet.

**Who decides when a father or son has completed a handbook or promotion requirement?**

The father makes the ultimate decision as to when he or his son has completed a requirement or project. Sons hold their fathers accountable also. For additional accountability, fathers and sons may want to review portions of the handbook with their unit leader. In this way, a father may make adjustments to the materials to meet specific physical or mental challenges in a young man’s life.
With respect to promotions, not only the young man’s father, but also all fathers in the unit and the unit leaders must agree. Approval from the ALERT Cadet Senior Leadership Team and Headquarters is the final step for promotions and some awards. Each promotion application explains the requirements for that promotion.

**Who can assist me in this process?**
First and foremost, seek the Heavenly Father. He knows your struggles and what he wants to accomplish through you. With ALERT Cadet, the Officer Rank structure (page 20) explains our chain of command. If you are a part of a local unit, then you should seek the counsel from your unit leader. If you are a distant family, and not part of a unit, then the Captain and/or Major for your geographic area is available to you. And the ALERT Cadet Headquarters staff is more than happy to give you contact information, and to assist you in any way that they can.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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