

## **Midwest Judo & Jujitsu Helps Build a True Warrior**

*Tom, a Midwest student, is now in his senior year at West Point. His father writes:* He finished out [third] year with a "B" average, earned his Combatives, Level 1 Instructor certification, lead his company's Sandhurst team and attained the Gold Level German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge. (That requires the highest levels in physical and military skills.) He skipped summer leave to get his airborne tab . . . Tom is now "Double Stacked" having both the Air Assault and Airborne Badges. He then left for his summer leadership training which was with the 29th infantry in Korea. He is [now] doing more grappling than judo. Thanks to all of the Great Training at Your Dojo he was easily able to switch over to grappling. He still works on judo but this year he will [likely] go for another Combatives certification.

He's in great shape; his weight is around 190 lbs and he easily benches 350 with multiple reps. His running is great and endurance is way up. He will focus on being in top condition for Ranger School. Tom is taking Arabic this year and that will probably be his toughest course. At graduation he will have 3 languages officially: Spanish, German and Arabic. He also can speak Japanese and Korean and his roommate taught him Russian. After graduation next spring he wants to go directly to infantry officers school and to do that he also has to become a Ranger. If he has time he might even get in Pathfinders schooling then it's off to the 101st. All of that will probably take almost another year before deployment.

Tom and I always talk about the challenges he meets daily and the ones he will be meeting, leading a platoon. He feels that there have been several events in his life that have had a profound influence on him. Being your student at Midwest has been one of those experiences that has and continues to shape his character. Mary and Tim we can't thank you enough for all you have taught Tom, not just about martial arts but about being an honorable person.

The West Point motto, "Duty , Honor, Country" is one he fully embraces everyday. It is one that your training and character building helped instill in him. There are 7 Army Values (Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity & Personal Courage) He was introduced to those concepts through his training with you. Despite his absence from the dojo, the training and values you have instilled in him continue to help guide him everyday.

*Excerpted E-mail from a Very Proud Dojo Dad 8/06*