

TANS FADE BUT LESSONS STAY

- By Ex Cdt. Chaitrali Bhade

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Introduction:

Before enrolling into NCC I was really a timid, faint hearted person but I have had a great opportunity to meet a lot of mentors in this journey of three years. There have been a lot of people who have had a positive impact on me, not only ANOs, GCIs and PI staff but also my fellow cadets. And some of these life lessons will always stay with me.

Making me understand the real me:

In my first year of NCC, my ANO [Lt. Suvarna Jadhav] had given me an opportunity to brief about the flag area, which eventually helped me in developing my reading, writing and even speaking skills. She encouraged me to participate in more such activities to polish my skills and even develop some. During my pre TSC days in one of the selection rounds I was really tensed and my confidence had badly dropped because of my poor scores. And the same evening I happened to have a conversation with her which helped me so much and those words lifted my self esteem and I had recorded that call and so I could play it on loop and keep myself charged and by the end of the call we decided that she would gift me a chocolate if I get selected for the next round or I would gift her one if things don't go as planned. The next afternoon I remember myself screaming on the phone saying she owed me chocolate. But after 10 days I wasn't selected for the final round and that really broke me as I never really wanted to disappoint her. I couldn't look her in the eye. Few days later, I remember gathering all my courage to meet her and I cried my heart out and her words comforted and motivated me to pick myself again and stand up stronger than before. And she just told me to not get demoralized and if God had snatched something from me he definitely had a better plan for me. I have always had her beside me like the strongest pillar. She has always been there for me when I was on top of the world and even when my world came crashing down. And I have learnt so much from her in these past 3 years which was beyond 4 walls and texts and it will stay with me for life long. And my ANO has been the reason I have been able to come this far and she brought out the speaker in me, the dancer in me, the singer in me and helped me meet the person I never thought I could be. She inspired me to push myself beyond my limits and gave me the don't give up attitude and brought out the best version of myself.

NCC the Ultimate Training:

Another such person who has inspired me during my NCC journey was our Ustad for firing team. During the inter battalion camps we were trained and prepared really hard for IGC by PI staff of our battalion and one of them was JCO. Lal Singh Sir, whom no cadet from our firing team will ever forget. Early morning we all would leave for our firing practice and would come back by afternoon and on a particular day we all scored really bad and sir made it sure that we never repeat such bad scores ever. We were given only dry practice and push ups and we really hated those times and whatever good we used to score he would never smile or be happy and would always ask us to do better and we would get irritated but little did we know that these were the days that would take us far. We all got selected for IGC and the best part was sir was also deputed for the same. The training, the routine, the behavior everything remained the same and no liberties were given. After IGC some of us got selected for the next camp which meant we had to stay there and sir had to leave and that was probably the only day that all of us cried and sir was happy for all of us and he smiled and bid us a goodbye. He was the one who inspired us to be determined and disciplined and taught us to train ourselves hard in the training and would always ask us to not settle for less and always pushed us to go beyond our limits.

Conclusion:

All these mentors are the reason for which I have come this far and they have brought the best out of me and I can never be thankful enough to them.

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Dry practice during camp. Cdt. Chaitrali Bhade (1st in the row)



On the last day of IGC at Pravaranagar. JCO. Lal Singh (In the middle) with other PI staff. Cdt.Chaitrali Bhade (kneeling second from left) and other cadets of our battalion.



Tea Party during CAT-2 pre TSC at Pravaranagar.

Maj. General. Gajendra Prasad, ADG NCC (Mah) (In the middle) Col. A.S. Randhawa (to the right of ADG) and SUO. Chaitrali Bhade(kneeling second from left) and other cadets of Mah Dte.



On Republic Day. Lt. Suvarna Jadhav (on left) and SUO. Chaitrali Bhade (on right)