4-30-2010

ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

John M. Dunn
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Good afternoon. Thank you for inviting me to be here with you today as you are commissioned. It is a pleasure to have a chance to meet you and your families and to meet your honored guest Glenn Gross.

It is also my honor to present the President's Award to Cadet Thompson, who has achieved the position of #1 graduate in the 2010 Commissioning Class. He clearly demonstrates the level of excellence toward which you all work.

Being here as you mark this milestone gives me the chance to do one very important thing. That is to thank you--each of you--for your willingness to serve our nation and your commitment to being the kind of military officer who will exhibit the finest qualities of leadership. All of us owe you our gratitude, support for your future service and our pride in what you are doing.

I must also thank your families who are here with you today for their willingness to provide the support that will make it possible for you to meet the challenges of the role you have chosen.

Each of you will take something very special away from this University as you graduate. You'll take the skills and knowledge you've learned as a student in your discipline, of course. But you'll also take away the intense pride and commitment to each other that marks this University's ROTC program.

This network of colleagues, mentors and friends will remain an important part of your lives. For some of you, these connections may remain the most important and influential ones in your lives. I know the lessons learned and the commitments made
to colleagues in a similar ROTC class years ago led Glenn Gross to the kind of lifelong service and colleagues that brings him here today to be inducted into your Wall of Fame. He served in uniform in Vietnam and then continued to serve his nation and its soldiers through his company, CamelBak, by producing life-sustaining products being used today in Iraq and Afghanistan. Glenn, we are proud of who you are and what you continue to do.

• All of you know this is Lt. Col. John Cyrluk's last official ceremony at WMU. On behalf of the entire University community, I thank him for his commitment to your professional development and well-being and for his dedication to service and our nation's safety. Thank you and best of luck as you move to the next chapter in your life.

• Graduates--officers--I look forward to seeing you as you cross the stage at Miller Auditorium tomorrow. Congratulations and please know you carry Bronco pride with you wherever you go in the future.

Thank you.