

Sylvia's spiritual journey began when she was a child in her grandparent's small Pentecostal church. She loved going to church, singing in the choir, and attending Sunday School. At the age of 8 she gave her life to the Lord and never looked back. She joined Campus Ministry at Savannah State University, where she learned the meaning of true fellowship and discipleship. She was then introduced to Theology and Apologetics. With that knowledge she went home the next year and started a Young Adult Ministry at her home church in South Carolina. She graduated with her bachelor's degree and decided to obtain her Master's in Theology, which she received in 2016.

God placed chaplaincy on Sylvia's heart. She went back to school to finish her Master of Divinity. In 2017 she got a job with the Veteran's Benefits Administration and moved to Phoenix, AZ. God continued to put chaplaincy on her heart, and she began researching how military chaplaincy could be used to reach the young adults in the military. Sylvia spoke to a recruiter and began the process of becoming an Army chaplain.

Sylvia married her husband, Matthew, in 2015. She enjoys working out at the gym, studying Apologetics, hiking, and traveling.

Why the U.S. Army Chaplaincy?

In 2017, Sylvia began working for the Veterans Benefits Administration. She worked claims for veterans seeking disability compensation from injuries they incurred in service; and daily she would see the dire need for chaplains, especially women chaplains, in the military. In 2018, Sylvia was chosen to work on a special team to handle Military Sexual Trauma claims and have been shocked at the number of claims, from both men and women, stating they were unable to report issues of depression, anxiety, or sexual assault to their chaplains because they were uncomfortable or too embarrassed to speak to their male chaplains.

When Sylvia's veteran colleagues found out she was obtaining her degree in Divinity, they insisted she become an Army chaplain. They all asserted that with her personality and love for people, she would be perfect for the job. At first, she was against the idea. She figured she could become a VA Chaplain instead, but after seeing the great need for military chaplains in her work she began to open her heart up to the possibility.

In June 2019, while she was in meditation and prayer, Sylvia heard the call of God to become an Army chaplain. She began to research the qualifications and give much thought into how she measured up to them. She considered her physical attributes, her religious convictions, and mental preparedness. She has spent much time in prayer and was sure that she was ready to answer the call to serve soldiers in the Army through chaplaincy.

God has given Sylvia unique gifts that would be beneficial for Army chaplaincy, such as the spiritual gifts of mercy, knowledge, teaching, and wisdom. She is also an excellent team player and do not mind working in a pluralistic setting. Sylvia keeps herself in great shape physically, mentally, and emotionally and she always put the needs of others before her own. She believes she can handle the rigorous life of being a soldier all while providing comfort and smiles to the soldiers who need it.



CADET SUMMER TRAINING 2021

UNIT MINISTRY TEAM STORYBOARD



The Journey of a thousand miles....

WHO: 2LT Chaplain Candidate Sylvia Bennett

WHAT: Cadets of 4th Regiment Advanced Camp arrived at Fort Knox

WHERE: PT Pit, Fort Knox, KY

WHEN: Monday, 7 June 2021

IMPACT: The Cadets of 4th Regiment Advanced Camp received an initial brief by 2LT Bennett to welcome them and acquaint them with Religious Service times



Chaplain Candidate 2LT Bennett welcomes a group of cadets to Advanced Camp in-processing.

CC (2LT) Bennett briefing the cadets of 4th Regiment Advanced Camp on available Chapel service times.



CADET SUMMER TRAINING 2021

UNIT MINISTRY TEAM STORYBOARD



“I was sick and you visited me....”

WHO: 2LT Chaplain Candidate Sylvia Bennett

WHAT: Visiting with cadets in Quarantine and Isolation

WHERE: PT Pit, Fort Knox, KY

WHEN: Friday, 11 June 2021

IMPACT: 2LT Bennett visited the cadets who tested Positive for COVID and were separated from their Regiments. She gave a field service, encouraged them, and helped ease their anxiety.



Chaplain Candidate 2LT Bennett giving a field sermon from Ecclesiastes 3.

CC (2LT) Bennett hanging out with the cadets answering their questions, making them laugh, and lifting their spirits.



CADET SUMMER TRAINING 2021

UNIT MINISTRY TEAM STORYBOARD



Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God

WHO: 2LT Chaplain Candidate Sylvia Bennett

WHAT: Special, Requested, Field Service Before Night Land Navigation

WHERE: TA 14, Fort Knox, KY

WHEN: Monday, 21 June 2021

IMPACT: 2LT Bennett Sylvia Bennett performed a Protestant Field Service that was requested by the C/D companies of the 4th Regiment. At least 100 cadets attended and participated.



2LT Sylvia Bennett preaching from an upturned trash can during a field sermon.

Out of over 200 cadets that were testing that day, at least 100 cadets showed up to receive the Word of the Lord from 2LT Sylvia Bennett.



CADET SUMMER TRAINING 2021

UNIT MINISTRY TEAM STORYBOARD



Reflecting the Light of Christ

WHO: 2LT Chaplain Candidate Sylvia Bennett

WHAT: Counseling

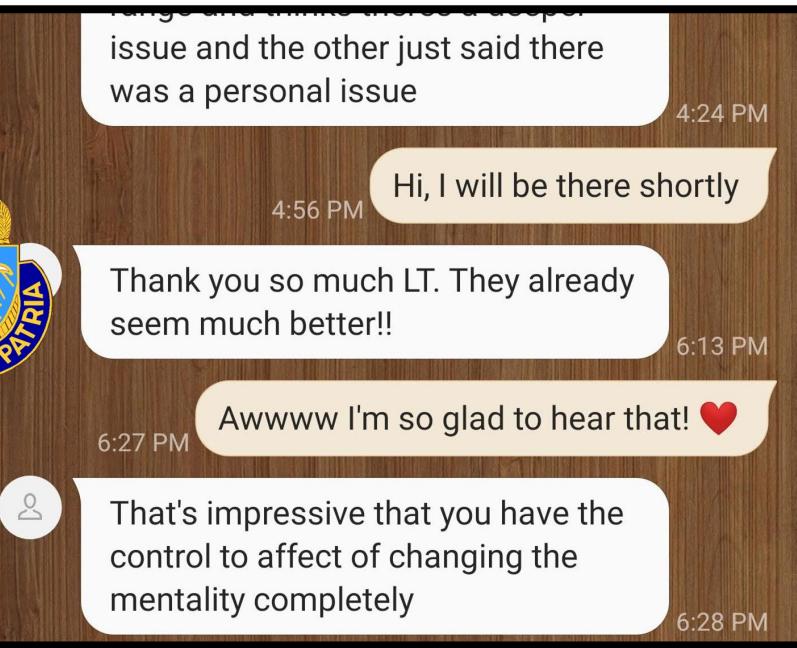
WHERE: Barracks, Fort Knox, KY

WHEN: Friday, 25 June 2021

IMPACT: 2LT Bennett Sylvia Bennett performed a Protestant Field Service that was requested by the C/D companies of the 4th Regiment. At least 100 cadets attended and participated.



2LT Sylvia Bennett was performing a field service when she received an emergency text to visit two young ladies at the barracks.



Shortly after counseling and leaving the cadets, 2LT Bennett received this message from their cadre. **One of the young ladies gave her life to Christ that night!**



CADET SUMMER TRAINING 2021

UNIT MINISTRY TEAM STORYBOARD



Bringing God to Soldiers and Soldiers to God

WHO: 2LT Sylvia Bennett (Chaplain Candidate)

WHAT: Field Service

WHERE: Densberger, Fort Knox, KY

WHEN: Friday, 5 July 2021

IMPACT: 2LT Bennett went out of her way and travelled to Louisville, KY where she rented a guitar for the cadets to have a Worship service while in the field.



4th Regiment cadet vibrantly playing the rented guitar during the Worship Service



The cadets enjoying the Worship music together by singing and clapping along



CADET SUMMER TRAINING 2021

UNIT MINISTRY TEAM STORYBOARD



Fulfilling the Great Commission

WHO: 2LT Sylvia Bennett (Chaplain Candidate)

WHAT: Performing Baptism

WHERE: O'Neil Chapel, Fort Knox, KY

WHEN: Saturday, 10 July 2021

IMPACT: 2LT Bennett baptized 3 cadets of the 4th Regiment.



2LT Bennett baptizing cadets, according to her faith tradition, with the assistance and support of fellow chaplains

The three cadets, along with 2LT Bennett, joyously posing for many pictures after being baptized



CADET SUMMER TRAINING 2021

UNIT MINISTRY TEAM STORYBOARD



“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up”

WHO: 2LT Sylvia Bennett (Chaplain Candidate)

WHAT: Graduation Invocation/Recognition for Outstanding Performance

WHERE: Fort Knox, KY

WHEN: Wednesday, 14 July 2021

IMPACT: 2LT Bennett completed her summer practicum by giving the Invocation at Graduation. She was also awarded the Army Achievement Medal by the Command Staff of the 4th Regiment.



2LT Bennett giving the invocation at the Graduation ceremony for the 4th Regiment



2LT Bennett was recognized by the Command Staff of the 4th Regiment as having exceptionally contributed to the overall success of the cadets during CST 21