



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT COMPANY, INSTRUCTOR BATTALION
THE BASIC SCHOOL
TRAINING & EDUCATION COMMAND
24164 BELLEAU AVENUE
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5019

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1040
C474-COMM
19 AUG 09

From: Gunnery Sergeant Louis A. Alessio 290760162/0629 USMC
To: Senior Member of the Cross Commissioning Board/ USAF Academy

Subj: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR CROSS COMMISSIONING OF ADAM C. DERITO

1. This letter is being written in regards to the requested Cross Commissioning of Adam C. DeRito. Candidate DeRito was a member of my Platoon (Golf Company, 4th Platoon) during the 1st Summer Increment at Officer Candidates School. I was the Senior Enlisted Staff member of that Platoon (Platoon Sergeant) and had sufficient observation time on this young man, and I feel confident I can be of assistance in the decision making process in regards to this young man's future service.

2. Candidate DeRito started out in the training cycle like many of the young men who have limited to no experience with the Marine Corps, its customs and courtesies, and without the discipline that is demanded of them on a daily basis. I would be of questionable integrity if I did not say that Candidate DeRito did struggle, and on two occasions did warrant an audience with the Battalion Commander in regards to his struggles. However, this did not at any time hamper his abilities when placed in billets, and his leadership abilities were quite strong. In fact, I would go even as far as to say that leadership wise, when the rubber met the road, he was within the top 10 within the Platoon. He is able to act and think when placed in stressful situations, situations where I have seen many of his fellow Candidates fail and get sent back to their place of origin. It was obvious to me, my fellow staff members, and obviously to the senior members of the command that Candidate DeRito wants to be a Marine Officer, and has the leadership abilities to be a fine one. Otherwise, I can assure you, this letter would not be necessary.

3. The struggles that Candidate DeRito dealt with were, in my opinion, due to his unfamiliarity with the Marine Corps and his budding maturity. While there were instances where his conduct was cause for concern, he accepted criticism well and worked hard to correct his deficiencies. I can assure you that the man standing before you is a more humble version than the one that was placed under our charge in May of 2009. He understands the leadership philosophy of "know yourself and seek self improvement", something that is demanded of Marine Officers. I can honestly say that this was the last piece of the puzzle in regards to this young man; his leadership abilities are top notch, he is tactful with his peers, and he understands how to take care of subordinates. The only piece that was missing was humility and accepting his faults. If I had looked this young man in the eye before his departure and felt that he did not get it, I would have fought with every ounce of my being to ensure he did not get the stamp of approval of Officer Candidates School. This young man gets it, and he will be a better Officer for it regardless of your decision.

4. I am a Gunnery Sergeant with over 15 years of service in the United States Marine Corps. I would gladly accept and follow the orders of this

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young man should he be given the opportunity to lead Marines in the future. I know in my heart he has the ability and promise to be a fine Marine Officer, and I believe that if he is not given the opportunity it would be a wasted opportunity. I pray that you will give Candidate DeRito the opportunity to accept a commission as a Marine Officer. I believe that the Marine Corps, and the Marines he will lead in the future, will be better for it.

LOUIS A. ALESSIO