



Beyond the Rank: PFC Morman's Commitment to Excellence in the Army

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True strength and leadership are not measured by rank but by resilience, determination, and an unyielding commitment to growth. PFC Morman's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance, proving that leadership is not granted but forged through sacrifice and the relentless drive to move forward. His story reflects the essence of dedication, the triumph over doubt, and the pursuit of excellence. It serves as a reminder that challenges do not define us—our response to them does.

From the moment PFC Morman joined the Army, it was evident that he was motivated by more than just duty—he sought a fresh start, an opportunity to push himself beyond his limits, and to grow into the best version of himself. The military provided him with structure, discipline, and a renewed sense of purpose. Choosing to become a 56M (Religious Affairs Specialist) was a natural extension of his desire to help others, granting him a meaningful role in supporting and guiding his peers. His experience in the Army has been nothing short of transformative. He has accomplished personal milestones that many only dream of—such as purchasing his first car, living independently, and achieving financial stability. However, beyond these tangible achievements, the most significant reward has been the sense of belonging that the military has given him. For PFC Morman, the Army is not merely a career; it is a second home, a place where he has found both purpose and family.

His first year in the military was a transformative experience; it was his first time away from family and truly on his own. After completing Basic Training and AIT, he arrived at his first unit, only to be immediately informed by his First Sergeant (1SG) that he had a board coming up for Soldier of the Year. The idea of holding such a title so early in his career felt surreal, especially as a newcomer with no prior knowledge of the board process. Despite his initial nerves, he embraced the challenge head-on. He studied relentlessly, absorbed every piece of guidance offered, and walked into that room not as a hesitant newcomer, but as a soldier determined to prove himself. When he heard his name announced as the winner, he realized something profound—success is not reserved for those who have everything figured out. It belongs to those who refuse to back down, who push forward despite uncertainty, and who embrace every challenge as an opportunity to grow.

One of the biggest challenges he faced was getting in his own head. At times, he worried about how his Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was perceived, since some people might think it contributes little to the bigger mission. However, he understood that the work done behind the scenes is invaluable. Struggling with a fear of failure, he used that fear as motivation to push himself harder. For PFC Morman, the only direction from here was forward.



Throughout this journey, he learned the importance of maintaining a positive and upbeat attitude, even in the face of adversity. Many in the military believe that being a soldier means always being serious and suppressing happiness; however, PFC Morman wants to demonstrate otherwise. He believes one can be both motivated and optimistic while successfully completing the mission.

His mindset of going above and beyond wasn't something that developed overnight—it was ingrained in him from a young age. Nevertheless, the leaders and mentors he encountered along the way played a crucial role in reinforcing that drive. He is grateful to be surrounded by those who encourage and support soldiers striving for more than just the bare minimum. In the Army, working beyond one's rank is essential for proving dedication and ambition. As a PFC, Morman has committed himself to embodying this principle, demonstrating his determination to grow and excel.

Success in the Army is not merely about meeting standards; it's about surpassing them. For PFC Morman, being recognized as Soldier of the Quarter, Best Warrior, and Soldier of the Year for his brigade was more than just an accolade—it was a testament to his commitment to pushing both his physical and mental limits. These achievements reinforced his belief that a 56M, often underestimated, can rise to any challenge and excel in all aspects of soldiering.

Too often, the contributions of 56Ms are overlooked. However, PFC Morman has proven that his military occupational specialty is just as capable of excelling in the field, mastering battle drills, and executing medical tasks. By reaching these milestones, he has shattered expectations and demonstrated that true capability is not limited to a specific role but is defined by one's dedication and perseverance.



Excellence does not happen by chance; it is the result of meticulous preparation and unwavering focus. PFC Morman's approach to competition and boards is rooted in discipline. He starts by writing down all the regulations outlined in the Memorandum of Instruction (MOI), ensuring that he is not merely memorizing information but truly understanding it. This structured method allows him to recall critical details, even if he does not immediately know an answer. His ability to reference key sources, and utilize for studying and practicing sources such as Army publications, ChatGPT, and Quizlet, strengthens his confidence and mastery of the material.

Beyond knowledge, he recognizes the importance of presence. "From the moment you enter the room, the board is assessing your first impression—make it count," he advises. Confidence and professionalism are just as important as the information itself, and PFC Morman has learned to trust his preparation, approaching each situation with the mindset that he is ready to succeed.

Competing at the brigade level was one of the most intense challenges Private First Class (PFC) Morman had ever faced. Surrounded by strong competitors and high stakes, he found himself second-guessing his knowledge—a battle that took place not in the field, but in his mind. However, he quickly realized that doubt only leads to failure. By shifting his focus inward, he reminded himself, "I've been studying and training for this—I know what I'm doing, and I know what I'm capable of." This change in mindset made all the difference. Once he stopped comparing himself to others and believed in his own preparation, everything fell into place. He learned that a strong mindset is just as important as physical and intellectual readiness.

Earning two Army Commendation Medals (ARCOMs), an Army Achievement Medal (AAM), and other commendations as a junior enlisted soldier is a rare achievement—one that PFC Morman does not take lightly. These honors are not just about recognition; they serve as proof that hard work and perseverance can surpass the expectations associated with rank. In his view, being a PFC should never be seen as a limitation. "Your rank doesn't define your potential," he asserts. "Excellence isn't about where you stand—it's about how much effort and dedication you put into achieving more."

Among all his achievements, winning the Best Warrior Competition stands out the most. This competition was not just a test of skill; it was a week-long ordeal that pushed him to his limits. The grueling series of events included a physical training test, a board evaluation, drills and ceremonies, an essay, a 14.5-mile ruck march, warrior tasks and battle drills, a medical lane, weapons qualification, and land navigation. Each challenge required resilience, versatility, and determination. The intensity of the competition compelled him to refine old skills, acquire new ones, and demonstrate his endurance. Emerging victorious was not merely about winning a title; it was about proving to himself just how much he was capable of achieving.

In the military, leadership is not only defined by rank or position but also by the influence one has on others. For PFC Morman, true leadership involves stepping up, providing guidance, and ensuring that no soldier must struggle in silence. His dedication to mentorship comes from an understanding that not every soldier has access to strong leadership or the necessary resources to succeed. Whether it's mastering the NCO Creed, preparing for a board, or navigating the challenges of military life, he believes that no soldier should have to face these obstacles alone.

PFC Morman's motivation to assist fellow soldiers is rooted in his own experiences. He knows how challenging it can be to confront obstacles without guidance, and he is determined to prevent others from facing the same difficulties. By taking the initiative to support his peers, he ensures they have the knowledge and support needed to thrive. Even if he helps just one soldier, he sees that as a victory—because every soldier's success contributes to the strength of the entire team.

His philosophy is straightforward: leadership is about service. True leaders are not those who command from a distance but rather those who stand alongside their peers, guiding them through challenges and offering a helping hand when needed. PFC Morman embodies this philosophy, demonstrating that leadership is about action, not just words.

One of the most powerful ways to inspire others is through action. PFC Morman doesn't just tell soldiers to push themselves beyond expectations—he shows them how. By volunteering, participating in events, and constantly seeking new challenges, he demonstrates the importance of stepping outside one's comfort zone. His willingness to take on new opportunities not only helps him grow but also sets a standard for others to follow.

A true leader does not wait for permission to excel; they take the initiative to rise above the standard. By consistently pushing himself to do more, PFC Morman has gained recognition as someone dedicated to growth and excellence. His example encourages others to adopt the same mindset, proving that success is not about waiting for the right moment; it's about making the moment right.



What separates a good soldier from a great one? According to PFC Morman, the answer is attitude. Many soldiers meet the expectations of their rank, but only a few are willing to exceed them. The true measure of a soldier's potential lies not in what is required, but in what they are willing to do beyond the minimum.

This mindset drove him to learn the NCO Creed early in his career, well before it was expected of him. While most soldiers wait until they reach the rank of Specialist or higher to begin learning it, PFC Morman took the initiative to start early. This extra effort not only strengthened his knowledge but also set him apart from his peers. His dedication to continuous growth helped him succeed in competitions and reinforced his belief that going beyond expectations leads to greatness.

From PFC Morman's perspective, greatness is not achieved by settling for what is expected; it is forged by pushing past limits, embracing challenges, and continuously striving for improvement. For PFC Morman, the drive to go above and beyond is rooted in self-awareness and a deep desire to bring out the best in himself. His journey is not just about personal success; it is also about inspiring those around him to reach their full potential. By setting an example, he creates a ripple effect that reinforces a culture of excellence and unity within the Army.

Leadership is not solely about directing others; it is about setting the standard through action. PFC Morman understands that every soldier has the power to influence their peers, and his goal is to be the kind of leader who motivates others to exceed expectations.

By continually striving for improvement, he encourages those around him to adopt the same mentality. He believes that excellence is not achieved alone; it is built through collective effort, with each individual pushing themselves and, in turn, strengthening the entire team. His commitment to leading by example is a testament to his belief that true leadership is measured by the impact one has on others.

In the face of adversity, discipline and motivation are essential. PFC Morman's resilience is fueled by the belief that greater things lie ahead. Even during difficult times, he remains focused on the bigger picture, reminding himself that obstacles are only temporary. Embracing the mindset from AR 350-1 — "train as you fight or train through your fight"—he pushes through hardships with unwavering determination. Every challenge, no matter how difficult, is an opportunity for growth. His ability to maintain perspective during tough times keeps him moving forward, knowing that persistence and resilience will ultimately lead to success.

For PFC Morman, self-improvement is not an option; it is a necessity. The pursuit of knowledge and skill development is the foundation of becoming the best version of himself. He believes that the more he learns and grows, the more he can contribute to those around him. Standing out from his peers is not just about personal recognition; it is about setting a standard that others can aspire to. When one soldier commits to excellence, it creates a ripple effect, encouraging others to do the same. PFC Morman has seen firsthand how dedication to self-improvement can inspire a community of individuals, all striving for greatness together.

True leadership is not about authority or status; it is about being a source of support, guidance, and inspiration for those who rely on you. For PFC Morman, leadership means showing up, offering help, and ensuring that every soldier under his guidance has the tools to succeed. His goal is to be a leader who not only meets expectations but exceeds them—one who listens, encourages, and pushes others to reach their full potential.

PFC Morman is committed to being the kind of leader his soldiers can depend on. Whether it is helping them prepare for a board, answering their questions, or simply being there during difficult times, his priority is ensuring that his team feels supported. For him, leadership is about more than just giving orders; it is about standing beside his soldiers, offering guidance, and fostering an environment where they feel valued and empowered.

His leadership philosophy is simple: always show up. A great leader is not someone who is present only during good times but one who remains steadfast through challenges. His dedication to this mindset ensures that those under his leadership will never feel alone in their struggles. For PFC Morman, leadership is not just about his own accomplishments; it is about inspiring others to achieve their goals. He believes that by encouraging his soldiers to aspire for more, they in turn will inspire others to do the same. His mission is to create a chain reaction of ambition and self-improvement, where junior enlisted soldiers recognize their potential and take action to exceed expectations. By setting an example and promoting a culture of growth, he hopes to leave a lasting impact on those he leads. His success is not measured solely by his achievements but by the progress and development of the soldiers he mentors.

PFC Morman views leadership not merely as a career goal but as a daily mindset. His purpose extends beyond self-improvement; it is about uplifting those around him. He strongly believes that his role in life is to serve as a source of encouragement, reminding others that they have someone who believes in them. This belief fuels his daily efforts—the drive to inspire, support, and make a difference. For him, leadership is not about personal recognition; it's about ensuring that others feel seen, heard, and capable of achieving greatness.

True success encompasses more than personal achievements; it involves raising others and leaving a significant impact. For PFC Morman, the most valuable lesson learned throughout his journey is that only he can define his potential. He refuses to allow others to impose limitations on him, believing that anyone with the drive and determination to move forward can attain greatness.



One of the greatest challenges a soldier can face is doubt—whether it comes from within or from others—that tries to dictate what they can and cannot achieve. PFC Morman has learned that the key to success is never allowing anyone to set boundaries on their potential. No one has the right to determine how far he can go, and he hopes to instill that same belief in every soldier he encounters.

His message is clear: push forward, regardless of what others may say. The only limits that exist are the ones you accept. By maintaining this mindset, he has not only broken barriers for himself but has also inspired those around him to do the same.

For PFC Morman, leaving a legacy isn't about titles, ranks, or accolades; it's about the impact he has on the lives of others. His mission is to inspire those around him to be their best selves, to rise above negative thinking and self-doubt, and to take meaningful action toward their goals.

More than anything, he wants to remind everyone that no one is alone in their struggles. Every soldier has the ability to uplift others, offer support, and create an environment where success is shared. By embracing this mentality, he believes that a stronger, more united Army—and, by extension, a better world—can be built, one soldier at a time.

Many junior enlisted soldiers may feel limited by their rank, believing that they must wait to make an impact. PFC Morman wants to change that perspective. His message to those who look up to him is simple: do not let your rank define what you can or cannot do.

No matter where someone stands in their career, they have the power to go above and beyond, help others, and lead in their own way. The mission is not just about individual success—it is about collective strength. When soldiers support each other, push themselves beyond expectations, and strive to be their best, they create an unstoppable force.

To those inspired by his journey, PFC Morman offers this challenge: strive for greatness. It is not reserved for a select few; it is attainable for anyone willing to work for it. By believing in themselves, pushing past limitations, and committing to excellence, every soldier can achieve more than they ever imagined.

His final words to those on the same path: "I believe in you. Now it's time for you to believe in yourself." To those inspired by his journey, PFC Morman offers this challenge: strive for greatness. It is not reserved for a select few; it is attainable for anyone willing to work for it. By believing in themselves, pushing past limitations, and committing to excellence, every soldier can achieve more than they ever imagined.

PFC Morman's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance, leadership, and self-belief. His story proves that rank is not just a title—it is earned through dedication, resilience, and the willingness to push beyond one's limits. He challenges others to strive for excellence, to lead with purpose, and to embrace the mindset that success is within reach for those who are willing to work for it. The path to greatness is not given; it is forged through commitment, discipline, and the unwavering belief in one's potential. As he continues to grow and lead, we look forward to seeing him take the next step in his career and earn the title of Non-Commissioned Officer, setting an example for others to follow.

