



Instructional Scenario

Leaders and Friends

Duty/Concept Area(s): Exercising Leadership and Ethics

Scenario:

Nicole and David, who were NJROTC buddies in high school, decide to enroll at a local university and enter the NROTC program there. The NROTC instructors inform the class of two very competitive programs offered to first year midshipmen: the first will place one awardee in charge of one of the platoons within the company; the second will award a \$1000 monthly stipend to one awardee. Both programs will be awarded based on a review of academic transcripts and leadership demonstrated in extracurricular activities during high school.

In high school, David served as the cadet commanding officer, while Nicole served as the cadet executive officer. David was very dedicated to NJROTC but didn't participate in much else, causing his grades to drop in other subjects. Meanwhile, Nicole had maintained the highest GPA in high school. She also volunteered at the food bank, was a peer tutor her junior and senior years, and was captain of the swim team. Now, Nicole and David find themselves competing for the same opportunities in college NROTC.

After reviewing their transcripts and student resumes, the NROTC instructors decided to make Nicole the platoon commander and awarded the stipend to a different midshipman. David felt slighted by Nicole's advancement—he began giving Nicole a hard time, even becoming insubordinate at times. He failed to fulfill his assigned tasks within the unit, fully expecting that Nicole would cover for him. One time, Nicole observed David coming back into the unit after curfew, drunk from a party. Nicole understands that these issues need to be addressed but fears that it will result in David getting kicked out of the NROTC program and losing out on his dream to become a naval officer.

Big Question:

What ethical, professional, and personal dilemmas does Nicole face, and how will they determine her next steps?

Focused Questions:

- What is Nicole's role in this situation?
- What are Nicole's motivations?
- How can this situation potentially affect Nicole's future as a leader in the NROTC program? How might it affect her friendship with David?

Project-Based Assessment:



Create a small group presentation about the scenario by analyzing and applying the following:

- Fundamental principles of leadership
- Group dynamics
- Leadership techniques
- Constructive criticism

Remember that classmates must be part of the conversation. Determine who will be your spokesperson and timekeeper. Communicate with your group members on how best to divide tasks to ensure timely project completion.