



BC's Corner

by CDT Stanley Stadelman

As the Cadet Battalion Commander, I would like to welcome back all new and returning Cadets to the Fighting Eagle Battalion. My goal this quarter was to introduce our new Cadets to the crawl phase of this year's training. By giving the MS III class the opportunity to teach the MS I and II's the basics of Land Navigation and Squad Tactics, we are further instilling the techniques that they will carry with them to Warrior Forge this summer at Fort Lewis, Wa. We have accomplished much this quarter. In sending many of our Cadets to Warrior Forge 2008, Airborne School, and CTLT, we have gained priceless knowledge that we have applied to building the underclassmen of the Fighting Eagle Battalion. I have no doubt in my mind that we will pick up where we left off and continue to build our leadership capabilities through the walk phase of our training at the beginning of the New Year. It has been a pleasure in doing my part to help build the members of the Fighting Eagle Battalion, and prepare them for the tough training that they have yet to face...."GET SOME!"



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West Point CFT 2008

by CDT Phillip Figuerres

On June 28, 2008, I was given the opportunity to undergo Cadet Field Training (CFT) at West Point, New York. CFT is the training the United States Military Academy (USMA) Cadets go through in between their freshmen and sophomore years. Every year, ROTC Cadets around America are given the chance to train with the USMA Cadets.

Occurring in Camp Buckner, the training area is a mere six miles down the road from the gates of West Point. CFT is a four-week adventure where Cadets are introduced to more mechanics of the Army. I was assigned to 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, 1st Company.

Our training started off with urban combat, hand to hand combat training, and confidence course training. We then learned how to zero our weapons, and qualify on a range with and without wearing a gasmask. Then we headed off to Ft. Knox for a three-day period where we fired tank and heavy artillery systems and conducted tank platoon missions. On our return to Camp Buckner, we trained on more light artillery systems, trained with every platoon level weapon system, and learned basic field first aid.

As a side note, on the First Aid training day, we were honored by the presence of the now retired Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General Dick Cody, who flew into our training area and gave us an inspiring speech to keep us motivated during the rest of our training.

Following first aid we were sent off to do land navigation in the hilly, wooded terrain around Camp Buckner. From there we were given a class on patrolling, and headed off back into the hills for three days out in the field. Upon returning from the field, we finished off training with an introduction to engineering and learning how to call for indirect fire.



*(Article
continued
on Page 3)*

Cadet P. Figuerres with his squad at West Point, NY



Ranger Challenge 2008

by CDT Pat Watts

Every year, the Fighting Eagle Battalion is given the opportunity to put forth a team to compete in the Ranger Challenge Competition. During the competition, schools from all over the nation, broken down by ROTC Brigades, field their best Cadets to represent their school in a myriad of events measuring skill and discipline. The teams consist of eight competitors, two alternates, and a team captain. I had the honor of being appointed team captain. I was chosen to lead our team to the competition — with only five weeks until the event.

With a hasty training schedule and 11 eager competitors, we got to work. Every day, the team practiced its skills in events it would be tested in, including a one-rope assault bridge, hand grenade assault course, weapon assembly and disassembly, a PT test, land navigation, and a 10k run with rucksacks.

With only one week left, it seemed as though the team was ready. Suddenly, disaster struck. We lost two cadets to injuries and one to an unexpected work conflict. The team scrambled to find three replacements. A mere few hours

before we were scheduled to leave for the competition, our last and much needed replacements stepped up (without having practiced with the team) and loaded up with the team.

It was not difficult to get back into the competitive spirit. Though we had three members with no team practice, they still competed with as much vigor and audacity as anyone else. Our team carried itself proudly through the competition, finishing with the 10k ruck march. Though we did not come in first place overall, our team was only one of two teams to pass another on the ruck march. The team trailing us on the march crossed the finish line more than 10 minutes after we did. However, the most motivating comment for the team came from the Battalion Commander for Central Washington University, the host school. When we crossed the finish line, he walked over to Master Sergeant Schledewitz, our Senior Military Instructor, and told him that we were without a doubt the only team to cross the finish line and have the appearance to be ready to run it all over again.

Ranger Challenge 2008 did not come with a trophy for the Fighting Eagle Battalion, but was a victory nonetheless.

2008-09 Branch Results

CDT James Appel
Medical Service Corps

CDT Rosalba Covos
Quartermaster Corps

CDT Josi Hall
Transportation Corps

CDT Christopher MacGeorge
Military Intelligence branch detailed Infantry

CDT Stanley Stadelman
Military Intelligence Corps

CDT Chris O'Brine
Quartermaster Corps

CDT Nicole O'Brine
Nurse Corps

CDT Aaron Peterson
Armor

CDT Michael Sadler
Quartermaster Corps



Summer 2008 LDAC
by CDT Rosie Covos

The Leadership Development Assessment Course (or Warrior Forge) is training required of all ROTC Cadets which is held every summer at Fort Lewis, Wa. This training usually takes place during the summer of their MS III and MS IV year and requires Cadets to apply their knowledge and leadership skills that they have developed during their MS years. I got the chance to experience LDAC as a member of the last Regimental training cycle, which was in mid-July and I really enjoyed it. I made many friends who were from all over the country and got to learn different things from them. My favorite part about LDAC would have to be how we all worked as a team regardless of the bad days we had. We learned how to communicate and work together in order to accomplish missions just as you would have to do in the Army. Having platoon competitions was very motivating in our regiment as well. It allowed us to have fun while in training, but feel rewarded for the hard work we did. The best part of LDAC would have to be the Water Confidence Training. Even though it was nerve racking, everyone seemed to look forward to that. My advice to those who are soon to be attending LDAC is to make the best of it and not to worry. Stay motivated and focused, but have fun and your experience will be a blast.

Nurse Summer Training Program
by CDT Nicole O’Brine

This past summer I had the opportunity to participate in the Nurse Summer Training Program (NSTP), for Nursing Cadets. My NSTP was located at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Tx. and spanned a three-week period. There were 14 Cadets in the group, assigned to various units throughout the hospital. I was assigned to 2LT Caraballo, who acted as my preceptor for the duration of my internship. Together we worked in the orthopedic unit practicing and enhancing my nursing and leadership skills. We put in a lot of hours at the hospital, but also had a few days off and were able to see some of San Antonio and hang out with the other Nursing Cadets.

NSTP was one of the best clinical courses in my training thus far; my preceptor was an exceptional example of a nurse and leader in her field. I was given excellent instruction, expanded my knowledge of nursing care and learned a great deal about myself as a Nurse and Leader. It was an invaluable experience that I am grateful to have been a part of.



Cadet O’Brine fifth from left in front row

West Point CFT 2008 (Continued from Page 1)

Training ended with Camp Illumination; the ceremony where USMA Cadets get promoted from their freshman rank of Cadet Private First Class, to their sophomore rank of Cadet Corporal. The day ends with a Military Ball to celebrate the end of their training. The following day, gear is packed up, and the training regiment undergoes a six-mile run back to the main campus where they are dismissed for leave.

From flying around in helicopters during patrolling, to firing tanks and artillery on open plains, training was fulfilling and educating. It was a worthwhile experience where I was introduced to many branches of the Army and what they have to offer. It was great to meet Cadets from all around the U.S. Although there wasn’t much leadership training, I still learned a lot about team work and camaraderie.





Cadets take a knee during the road march out of the training area.

Fall 2008 FTX
by CDT Blair Powers

After sufficient planning and coordinating on behalf of the MS IV's, the Fighting Eagle Battalion conducted a 3-day training exercise at the Seven Mile Military Reservation to gain proficiency in Land Navigation and Individual and Squad Movement Techniques to prepare the MS III's for Warrior Forge 2009. This exercise also served to introduce these tasks and basic Field Craft to MS I and MS II Cadets in preparation for their further training. The MS III's conducted two Night and two Day Land Nav iterations over Friday night

through Sunday morning. The MS I and MS II's conducted Land-Nav on Saturday, Saturday night and Sunday. The IMT lane was prepared to mimic the Warrior Forge lanes as much as possible, providing for all Cadets valuable and intense training with the aid of air-soft gun armed MS IV's to represent Warrior Forge cadre. The FTX culminated with a 5 kilometer ruck-march for extraction. Each Cadet was responsible for his/her own gear in a non-tactical environment aimed at building Battalion cohesion from MS I's through the most senior Cadets.



Cadets listen to instructions prior to the Individual Movement Technique (IMT) Lane

ALUMNI UPDATE

COL (R) Robert K. Suess (1968) Retired 1994. 1994-2005 General Contractor. 2005-present Substitute School Teacher. Winter in Palm Springs, Ca.

COL (R) Albert J Watson (1968) Retired from Army Reserves Sep 05. Retiring Dec 31, 2007, from civilian job as a Manufacturers Sales Representative. Resides in Vancouver, Wa.

LTC (R) Herbert L. Meyer, MI, (1970) Active duty 1972-75, counter terrorism/counter intelligence, electronic warfare, 28 yrs. total service. Has five children, one in Iowa Army NG & SMP-ROTC at the U of Iowa, one in Army Reserves awaiting orders for active duty.

COL George A. Abbott, AR (1981) Currently assigned as the G-3 for the Washington Army National Guard. Also named as the incoming commander for the 96th Brigade (Troop Command). Change of command took place JUN 08 in Tacoma. *Excerpt from e-mail: I stopped by the EWU campus and the ROTC building a few months ago. In many ways, little has changed. I honestly do not think I have changed that much, but upon contemplating that I graduated over 25 years ago, I had to think again. In any case, my EWU ROTC experience was followed by five years in the Army, followed by duty in the National Guard. This included an 04/05 tour in Iraq. It has been quite a ride and thankfully I am not finished yet.*



2LT Charles Hines, FA (2007) US Army, FORSCOM. Information from Sep 08-- About 5KM from Iranian border doing TCPS and humanitarian aide missions. His platoon is doing good with the lifestyle change from MLRS to Infantry/MP. Picture taken during KLE with a Mayor is on newsletter website.

CPT Rory K. Walley, MS (2001) Currently stationed at Fort Bragg, NC with 44th Medical Command, Medical Operations, TF261 Multifunctional Medical Battalion. Served as Platoon Leader, Assistant S2/3, Commander, and Battalion S2/3 Operations Officer. Currently Medical Operations Officer, 261 MMB(OIF), AUG 07-Present. Scheduled to attend the National Defense Intelligence College, Masters of Science of Strategic Intelligence, JUL 09.



MAJ Ty Abero, S3, Signal (1992) OIF 1 – Currently OIF V. 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion. Balad/LSA Anaconda, Iraq

Wendy Supanchick (Stone), Nurse (1997) Currently Health Services Director in the Riverside School District and is in the Master's Program at ICNE. Wanting to contact classmates that attended Airborne School with her.

CPT Daniel J. Singer, MI (2005) Deployed with 1-28 IN, 4BCT, 1ID out of Ft. Riley as a Company FSO. Currently attending the Career Course at Ft. Huachuca, Az.

2LT Levi Floeter, IN (2007) Graduated Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Ga. Slated to begin Ranger School FEB 09.



New Commissionees & Alumni at the Fall 2008 Commissioning Ceremony (left to right: 2LT Richard Senkler (Spring 2008), 2LT Christopher MacGeorge (Fall 2008), 2LT Steven DeWhitt (Summer 2007), 2LT Josi Hall (Fall 2008), 2LT Brian Johnston (Summer 2008) and 2LT Amber Ellis (Fall 2008)

Note From the PMS

by LTC M. David Millet (dmillet@ewu.edu)

The Fighting Eagle Battalion continues to grow and prosper here on the West Plains in Cheney, Wa. – even with the record snowfall we received in December. We completed another exciting and rewarding summer and fall quarters and I am continually amazed and proud of the hard work and dedication our fine young men and women exhibit as they continue to strive to meet their academic and career goals of becoming a Commissioned Officer.

Many of our Cadets spent the summer in far off places like Ft. Benning, Ga., Ft. Hood and Ft. Sam Houston, Tx., Ft. Knox, Ky., Ft Lewis, Wa., and West Point, NY. In total more than 20 Cadets attended training events such as Airborne School, the Leader Development and Assessment Course, Nurse Internships, and Leadership training with tactical units. In all cases these Cadets came back as better leaders ready to take on added responsibilities within the unit.

Fall Quarter 2008 was as fast paced as ever with the new MS IV senior Cadets ready to take on the demands of leading the Battalion, and the MS III's eager to undertake the rigors of training in preparation for their Ft. Lewis, Wa Leadership Course this summer. Between supporting the EWU football games, preparing and participating in Ranger Challenge, conducting weekly Leadership Labs, and participating in a well-developed Fall Field Training Exercise; the Cadets found time to keep up with their studies and other activities.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our alumni who have contributed to the ROTC Foundation through your generous donations – these monies are put to good use in supporting our Cadets as they strive to achieve their academic and commissioning goals.

Please continue to share your alumni information with us – we enjoy seeing current photos of what our EWU ROTC Alumni are up to today.

Upcoming Events

March 6-8	Winter Qtr FTX
March 21	Winter Qtr Commissioning
April 19	WSU 100K Relay Race
May 8	ROTC Military Ball
May 15-17	Spring Qtr FTX
May 28	National Awards Ceremony
June 12	ROTC Commissioning
June 13	EWU Commencement



WELCOME BACK BBQ: R. Cuajunco, J. Ladines and J. Decker and 2LT B. Johnston (08) behind

My Freshmen Experience

by CDT Quinton Brooks

Entering college for the first time is a very new and exciting experience. Being on your own, learning new ideas and responsibilities are just a few aspects of your freshmen year. I was lucky enough to enjoy the perks of the ROTC Department at EWU. You have to look at the first quarter and wonder if a freshman could have fun while simultaneously learning the life of college. Being in ROTC, you have to wake up at five am to get to PT at six am. For some, this can be very difficult. If you are motivated and ready to jump start the day, it can be a very refreshing wake-up. Other fun aspects of ROTC are the field training days where we learn the skills needed to become a future leader. Ranger Challenge has to be one of the biggest highlights of fall quarter. It challenges all, builds team spirit, and is a fun experience for a freshman. All in all I had a great experience so far and am looking forward to the rest of the year along with the rest of my EWU experience.



Fall 2008 EWU Ranger Challenge Team Front: Q. Brooks, S. Spevack Back: J. Abshire, J. Cutchin, K. Kristensen, Z. King, P. Watts, J. Plumb, R. Covos, J. Ladines, P. Figuerres.

Airborne School by CDT Joshua Decker

“10 minutes!” the Jumpmaster called, accompanied by the well rehearsed hand signals. This was it, the culmination of three weeks of training in the sweltering heat of Ft. Benning Ga. We were on a C-130 aircraft, climbing at what seemed like an impossible angle, to get to the required 1,250 feet.

“10 minutes! 10 minutes! 10 minutes!” The 64 soldiers crammed into the small seating space in the rear of the aircraft, called back. Fist bumps, good lucks, and prayers were heard and seen throughout the plane. My roommate and fellow Eastern Washington University Cadet, Pat Watts, looked at me and smiled. I knew how he felt; this was our first jump, and nervousness battled excitement.

“Get Ready!” The jumpmaster yelled, and the soldiers repeated.

“Outboard Personnel, Stand Up!” Soldiers near the front of the plane staggered to their feet.

“Inboard Personnel, Stand Up!” everyone else who was to jump in the first stick got to their feet, including Cadet Watts and myself.

“Hook Up! Check Static Line!” I hooked my static line to the anchor line cable above me and checked to make sure this piece of metal and fabric was set correctly to keep me alive.

“Check Equipment!” I routinely checked my own equipment and my buddies in front of me to make sure everything was in its place.

“Sound off for equipment check!” I slapped the butt of the soldier to my front and sounded off with “OK!”

This was it, as I listened to the men and women in front of me sound off I thought about the training that got me to this place. Ground week, with basic instruction on the wear of the parachute, and a first attempt at the 30 ft tower. Tower week, with advanced instruction, and concentrating on ironing out any weaknesses, and mass exits from the airplane. Finally, the morning of the first jump, with pre-jump checks, and waiting in the Harness shed for 6 hours, waiting for the Air Force pilots to come in with the planes.

“One Minute!” I was at the back of the stick, last man to exit the plane.

“30 Seconds!” The nervousness was getting to me now. I was jumping out of a perfectly good plane.

The red light turned green. I looked ahead and saw the first man jump. I moved forward as soldier after soldier jumped. I reached the door and saw the trees flowing underneath us at high speed. I jumped. The feeling of jumping out of an airplane is one of the most exhilarating things in the world. As I floated down to the ground, I got ready for a hard landing. When I reached the ground I thought four more jumps, and I will get my wings and be AIRBORNE!