

The Eagle Times

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Commander's Corner

Warrior Ethos: Pass It On

LTC Mark Johnson
Professor of Military Science

DIEPPE, FRANCE. 19 AUGUST 1942. Sergeant Marcel G. Swank, 1st Ranger Battalion, had a decision to make. Early that morning he had landed as planned on Green Beach near Pourville and had fought his way about a half-mile inland against tough German resistance. By 1000 hours the tactical situation had deteriorated to such an extent that the order had been given to return to the beach for evacuation back to England.

You may be wondering what an American Ranger was doing in France during August 1942, nearly two years prior to the Normandy

Invasion. Sergeant Swank was one of fifty members of the elite 1st Rangers who were selected to participate in the British raid on Dieppe, a small



port on the Channel coast of France. The intent was for this small contingent of Americans, the first U.S. Soldiers to engage in ground combat in the European Theater, to gain

valuable combat experience while serving with the 5,000 or so Canadian infantrymen and British Commandos that made up the bulk of the Allied force. Sergeant Swank and his comrades would then pass on their experiences to the rest of the Army's 1st Ranger Battalion, which for the past two months had been undergoing intense training in Scotland.

At least that was the plan. Nothing went right at Dieppe. False assumptions, poor planning, inadequate forces, and tough German defenses doomed the operation from the start. More than 50% of the Allied force (See Corner, page2)



(Left) The Eagle Battalion's newest commissioned officers:
2LT Jeremy Mollinger - Infantry
2LT Njoya Chomilo - Aviation



(Above) Congressman Ron Kind, the guest speaker at December Commissioning, taking time with cadets

(From Corner, page 1)

was killed, wounded, or captured. Swank and a fellow American Ranger, Sergeant Lloyd Church, carried a number of wounded Canadians to the beach, then returned to their fighting positions. But eventually the two Rangers had to fall back and look for a way home.

Sergeant Swank had to make his decision while wading through the surf, struggling against the tide and intense enemy fire to reach a British landing craft. He was about to haul himself into the boat when he noticed that Sergeant Church was no longer at his side. He glanced back toward the beach. Church was lying motionless in shallow water. What to do: continue to evacuate as ordered, or help his fallen comrade? Swank did not hesitate. He turned about and headed back to shore—where fierce enemy fire continued—hauling Church out of the water, and dragged him to a sheltered position on the beach. Church had been severely wounded in the head, and told Swank he couldn't go on. Time for another gut-wrenching decision. Swank had saved Church from drowning, but to stay on the beach now meant certain capture and death. With Germans closing on the position, Swank headed back into the surf. The same landing craft was still there. Swank helped a Canadian lieutenant to clamber onboard, but the officer was instantly killed by incoming fire. Deciding that getting into the boat was too hazardous, the Ranger spotted *HMS Calpe*, a Royal Navy de-

stroyer, in the distance. He swam toward deep water, and was eventually picked up by another landing craft. He was hit in the shoulder as he was hauled in, but survived the wounding. He was later awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action at Dieppe. Ranger Church was captured, but survived the war as a POW. In 1949, he told Swank that he did the right thing in pulling him to safety, and also in leaving him when there was no other option.

Marcel Swank also survived World War II. He continued his Army service after the war, and received an officer's commission. During the early 1950s, Captain Swank was assigned as a JROTC instructor at Premontre High School in Green Bay. My father was one of Captain Swank's cadets, and to this day still recalls him fondly. "Captain Swank was a mentor and a true role model since I didn't have much of a father," my dad wrote me recently (my grandfather survived WWII, but never really "came home" after that war). "He taught us not only about all things military, but also social graces. . . how to treat ladies, set tables, ballroom dancing and generally how to interact with people young, old and peers. I've never forgotten him."

My father put Marcel Swank's training to good use. He rose to the rank of staff sergeant in an Army Reserve engineer company, and went on to a 28-year career as an infantry officer following his 1960 graduation from St. Norbert College in De Pere—a

career that included earning a Silver Star while serving as an advisor to a South Vietnamese Ranger Battalion during the Tet Offensive of 1968. Along the way, my father instilled in me what we now know as the Warrior Ethos—the passion for excellence in all things that is embodied in the Soldier's Creed: *I will always place the mission first; I will never accept defeat; I will never quit; I will never leave a fallen comrade.*

Times change. While ballroom dancing and setting tables are no longer part of the military science curriculum, one of the great strengths of the American Army is its ability to pass down from generation to generation the values and traditions of the service. All cultural traits are learned. Inculcating the Warrior Ethos—the very essence of what it means to be a Soldier—does not happen by accident. Just as my father learned his craft from a World War II veteran, I received my most formative training from my father and others who fought in Vietnam. As a cadet today, you learn from the veterans of the War on Terror and other contemporary operations. Eventually, you will assume roles as trainers of the leaders of tomorrow. So learn your lessons well.

Major Marcel Swank's military service spanned four decades, during which he saw combat in three wars. He served in the Korean War with the 1st Cavalry Division after his stint at Premontre High School. He was later killed in action in Vietnam.

We've Moved!

CDT Corrine Vick

For years the UW-L ROTC program has been located in Wilder Hall. On January 5 campus workers, cadets, and instructors began the daunting task of moving the department to the lower level of the Whitney Center. Many people took part in accomplishing this task and having our new facility in order for Chancellor Gow's official

visit on January 22. All of us within the ROTC Department would like to extend a gracious thank you to everyone who helped make this all happen smoothly.

Chancellor Gow's visit was also accompanied by other members of UW-L family and staff. Events such as these are extremely beneficial to the ROTC Department. It **(See Moved, page 5)**

Bravo Company has Labs in Winona

CDT Andrea Schultz

Location! Location! Location! The Eagle Battalion's Bravo Company (Winona Detachment) is taking on a change of scenery this semester for leadership lab! With more cadets joining the Eagle Battalion, Bravo Company has requested more autonomy with their leadership labs. Conducting lab on the WSU campus will make the training more convenient for cadets who attend WSU. We also hope to gain visibility on campus and encourage other WSU students to discover what Army ROTC is all about.

The leadership labs are coordinated with the military science class the cadets receive each week. In the classroom they are taught from a textbook and learn from experienced Army Cadre.

The cadets then put this classroom knowledge to practical use during the labs. This training prepares cadets for what they will face at the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, which all cadets attend during the summer before their senior year.

Our first lab, February 3rd, was a precursor to what is in store for the rest of the semester. It consisted of two lanes where each squad leader was given a mission to carry out. Once they created an operations order (a plan) of how they wanted the mission to be conducted, they started the mission. Soon after the squad began the lane, the squad leader received a change of mission. The leader was evaluated on how they reacted to the variable and what

decisions they made. Some of the obstacles included IEDs, civilians on the battlefield, media, meeting with an tribal elder, entering and clearing a room, and medical injuries that required first aid. The cadets were very satisfied with the real-life training. Cadet Calla Swenson commented: "It was hard to get out of tactical mode and deal with civilians on the battlefield."

Some of our upcoming labs are urban orienteering with an emphasis on first aid, section tactics (patrolling), and land navigation. With more ROTC classes and labs taking place on the WSU campus, the goal is for Bravo Company to continue to grow in size and thus create a challenging environment for cadet leaders. Feel free to come check out the program!

2008 Eagle Battalion Military Ball - An Elegant Celebration

CDT Theresa Schriber

The night of December 5, 2008 was a very special night for the cadets and family of UW-L Army ROTC. For some it was a first military ball experience, and for a small group it was their last with the Eagle Battalion. It was a night of impressive ceremony, tasteful delight, and simulative speakers. The ball was enjoyed by all and will be remembered for years to come.

The night began with a reception hour. All were decked out in their finest. Cadets wore the Army Dress Green uniform, all ribbons in place and shoes shined. Friends and family wore formal attire of gowns and suits with ties. The room was a beautiful spectacle of green, black, and colorful satin. The receiving line then followed. Everyone

went through and met the high-ranking members of the battalion and their guests. For many, it was the first time families could meet those responsible for their children's involvement in the ROTC program.

As all made their way to their tables their eyes met an elegant scene of gold and red. The tables were covered with settings in red and centerpieces of gold. The ceremonial portion of the night then began. A superb color guard team posted the colors. Their every move was sharp and in unison. Pastor Mell Brinkley gave the invocation, which was followed by toasts. The POW table was then explained. This is an empty seat with a simple table set for one to signify those

who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country. LTC Johnson then gave his opening remarks. He recognized several outstanding cadets for their recent achievements, varying from LDAC to the Norwegian Road March. It was then that parents and guests got a taste of who is shaping their son or daughter to become a strong Army officer.

Then it was time to eat! All enjoyed a tasteful meal of either steak or salmon accompanied by delectable vegetables and potatoes. This was followed by a truly amazing cake from Linda's Bakery. After everyone was properly stuffed, the guest speaker gave his address. **(See Military Ball, page 5)**

Eagles Sweep Awards at the Norwegian Road March Competition

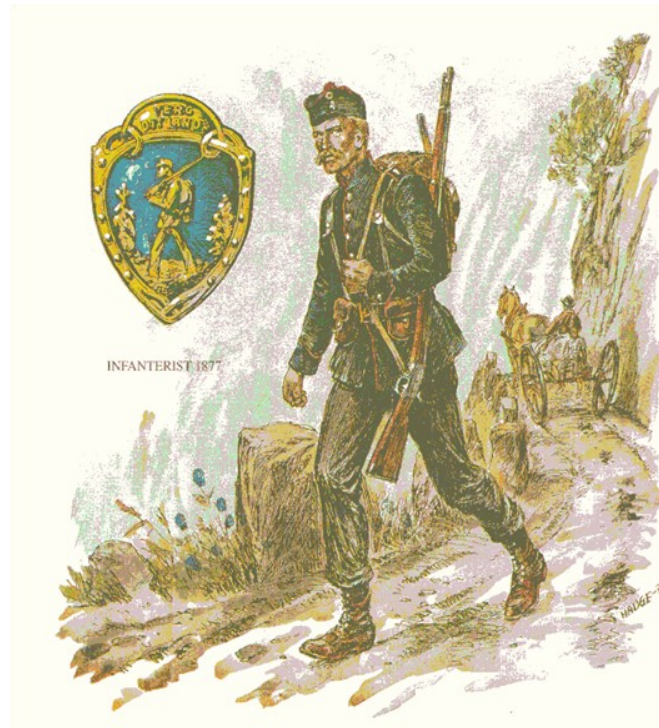
CDT Jared Emmart

On a cold and windy November day, twelve cadets from the Eagle Battalion participated in the 7th Annual Norwegian Road March Competition at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Indiana. This competition consists of a 30-kilometer (18.6 mile) road march, with a 25-pound load, that must be completed in certain amount of time: 4 hours and 30 minutes for males, and 5 hours and 15 minutes for females. Participants that complete these requirements receive the coveted Norwegian Road Marching Badge. There were 227 participants in this year's competition, and out of those only 158 qualified for the badge. All of the Eagle Battalion cadets were fortunate to have earned the badge. "It felt great to earn the award..." said CDT Shawn Sands, a MS-II from Ellsworth, WI. CDT Sands was also the only cadet from the Eagle Battalion to participate as an individual. In doing so, he finished 12th overall with a time of 3 hours and 26 minutes.

The remainder of the Eagle Battalion cadets competed as 4-person teams. There were eleven 4-person teams in the competition, and the three Eagle Battalion teams placed first, second and third. The first-place team, with a time of 4 hours and 17 minutes, consisted of Cadets Allmaras-Zen, Bless, Idso, and 2LT Morris. While they were just starting to rest after completing the march, the second-place team finished with a time of 4 hours 21

minutes. This team consisted of Cadets Bartle, Emmart, Scheffert and Voelker. The team that placed third overall was the only all-female team in the competition. Cadets Dietzen, Fusilier, Schumer, and Wiese finished with a time of 4 hours and 32 minutes, almost making the male standard. "The Norwegian competition was a success for us..." said SFC Eisch, the training NCO for the battalion. "We came here and showed the rest of the schools that we are the Eagle Battalion and we are here to win."

*"We came here and showed the rest of the schools that we are the Eagle Battalion and we are here to win."
- SFC Eisch*



Blood Drive = SUCCESS!

CDT Corey McCaigue

On 4 through 6 November, the Eagle Battalion sponsored a campus-wide Red Cross blood drive. Eagle Battalion cadets did everything from advertising to checking in donors. The blood drive was a huge success, with a single-day donation record of 198 pints that was established on the Thursday when all the

cadets donated. The total for the three-day period was an astounding 490 pints.

"I really enjoyed donating blood and seeing the whole battalion working together and helping out in the community. I especially liked the fact that McCaigue was in the blood drop costume," said CDT Dan Hamilton. Cadets donned the blood drop

suit, as shown below, as they pursued potential donors on campus.

The honor of wearing the blood drop suit was not just limited to freshmen--even the cadet Battalion commander, Corey McCaigue, gave it a try.

The blood drive also featured an inter-squad competition to (See **SUCCESS**, page 6)

(From Military Ball, page 3)

We had the privilege to have Colonel (Ret) Mark D. Harrell speak to us. His resume is very impressive including Executive Officer with the 10th Special Forces Group in Germany and Assistant Chief of Staff for Reserve Affairs at Cadet Command Headquarters at Ft. Monroe, Virginia. Colonel Harrell gave an impressive and engaging speech about his days in ROTC and how to succeed and become good officers. His words really stuck with every cadet, and also with the guests unfamiliar to the Army. One guest commented, "He instilled the importance of the Army values in everyone, even though I'm not in the military!"

The night ended with a dance with music provided by a DJ. Everyone let loose and truly enjoyed the time. Others socialized with cocktails and had a few laughs. By the time the night began to come to a close there was not a single person who didn't have a pleasant evening. For the MS Is they have many more Eagle BN Military Balls to look forward to, hopefully they will be as fun as this year's. And for the MS IVs it was a very memorable last Ball with their Eagle Battalion family.



**The MS-IV Class of 2009
at the Military Ball**

(From Moved, page 2)

shines a light on cadets and cadre, and things we do on campus and in the community that otherwise would go unnoticed. It also puts a person in the uniform that many just see in passing on campus and gives cadets a chance to show off the department's diversity and depth

Though the department has changed its location, our staff has not. Everyone who visits our new home is still greeted by Mrs. Sylvia Wood and her

amazing ability to expand all our waistlines with her delicious baked goods. Mrs. Charlene Purnell still sits ready to answer questions and go out of her way to help all of our cadets with anything and everything they need. And as always, we are very thankful for the support and encouragement we receive daily from campus staff, administration, and students.



Showing off the “Blood Drop” suit. From left to right CDT’s Chomilo, McCaigue, and Emmart



Volunteers taking the time for a picture. From left to right - CDT’s Suhr, Babcock-Beattie, and Idso

(From SUCCESS, page 4)

see who could get the most donors. The rules were simple: if a cadet donated themselves or had someone else donate on their behalf, the donation would go towards that cadet’s squad. The squad with the most total pints of blood would win, with the tie breaker being the total volunteer hours donated by the squad. There was one clear leader in this challenge, in both blood donations and total volunteer hours: 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Alpha Company. For this triumph the squad members each received gift certificates to a local movie theater.

Donating blood is not an uncommon thing for Army units to do. For example on one of the final days at Warrior Forge there is a blood drive. “This was a very good thing for the entire battalion because we were able to see that we can

get more that just Army missions accomplished. It shows we were one of the premier student organizations on cam-

“This was a very good thing for the battalion...It shows that we are one of the premier student organizations on campus...”

- CDT Schrieber

pus and our numbers speak for themselves,” CDT Theresa Schrieber said.

The Eagle Battalion did such a great job at organizing the blood drive that the Red Cross asked if they would be able to run the spring 2009 blood drive for them. Nikki Leis, the local Red Cross representative had this to say about the job the Eagle battalion did with the blood drive: “I would

like to personally thank CDT Chomilo and the UW La Crosse ROTC program for all of your time and support to this week’s blood drives. Your efforts not only will impact the lives of over 1400 patients in need but has also helped to establish a new, astounding one day blood collection record at UW La Crosse. Not to mention, seeing cadets in our blood drop costume all week on campus was truly priceless and extremely successful.” Although the battalion was unable to commit to the spring blood drive, we will be there next fall to set an even higher record.

Eagles Soar and Rappel during Winter Break

CDT Daniel Hamilton

During winter break, plenty of people like to go south where the weather is warm and sunny. Others prefer to embrace the frigid temperatures on their skis or snowboards. Still a few others want to get ahead in their program and take winter classes. This past winter break, two members of the UW-La Crosse Eagle Battalion did something a little different. Cadet Jonathan Bless, a sophomore archeology major, went to Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, while Cadet Scott Wolfe, a junior fitness major, attended Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Both cadets completed their schools—and Cadet Wolfe was named the honor graduate of his Air Assault class.

The United States Army Airborne School has a remarkable history. Started in April, 1940 with about 40 volunteers from the 29th Infantry Regiment at Fort Benning, the school has expanded greatly. Today, more than 18,500 soldiers graduate every year. Cadet Bless left for this school on January 7th and returned with his wings on January 30th, missing the first week of school. While being an ROTC cadet is not always easy or convenient, Cadet Bless knew this fact well before going to Airborne.

Despite these inconveniences, most cadets find the training worthwhile. “The best part of Airborne school was just the fact that you got to meet so many people from different places,” Bless said while describing his experience at the southern fort. Along with meeting new people, Bless experienced physical training every morning, less than six hours of sleep a night, untangling parachutes after use, and of course jumping out of perfectly good airplanes.

“It’s really exciting to be standing in a plane one minute, then

falling towards the Earth. Even with a parachute, the ground comes up pretty quickly.” In fact that is true; airborne troops hit the ground with a force equivalent to jumping out of a three story building. The training he received there includes jumping out of towers up to 250 feet tall and five jumps from Air Force aircraft, often with a full battle load of equipment.

In the end, Cadet Bless said the worst part of Airborne school was all the “hurry up and wait,” which, as anyone who has been in the military will agree, is all too common in training. On graduation day, Second Lieutenant Morris, a former Eagle Battalion cadet who received his commission in May 2008, pinned the time-honored airborne wings to Cadet Bless’s uniform, symbolizing his successful completion of one the Army’s oldest, most renowned schools.

While CDT Bless was falling through the air, CDT Wolfe was learning all there is to know about being an Air Assault soldier. Being south of Wisconsin, you would expect Kentucky to be warmer, and it was. From January 6th through January 22nd, zero degrees was the temperature for Cadet Wolfe. “The cold was definitely my least favorite part of Air Assault School.”

Day one of Air Assault starts with a very meticulous inspection. Something so small as a hole in a running shoe is enough to send a soldier packing. After the inspection, the soldiers must negotiate an obstacle course designed to be a very rigorous test of physical endurance and strength. “We started with 203 soldiers and only 139 graduated. Of the 64 who didn’t pass, 40 of them failed on zero

day (the first day); most of them failed the obstacle course.”

After zero day, the school is broken into three phases, the first of which is Combat Assault. In this phase, soldiers learned how to identify numerous helicopters, setup a medical evacuation, make a landing zone, and use arm signals to guide aircraft.

Phase two is called Sling load Operations. During this phase, soldiers use sling load equipment to prepare HMMWVs, Howitzers, and many other large pieces of equipment for aerial transport.

The final phase is the Rappelling Phase, where soldiers learn how to use various equipment and techniques to rappel out of a helicopter. Fast rope rappelling, rappelling down a rope by simply using one’s hands and feet, was CDT Wolfe’s favorite part of Air Assault School. Along with the fast rope method, soldiers learn proper belay and lock-in procedures, hookup techniques, and harness tying methods.

One of the last requirements to pass Air Assault School is to complete a 12 mile road march with a full ruck sack. This final segment must be completed within three hours. On graduation day, Cadet Wolfe graduated as honor graduate by attaining the highest scores on all written and practical exams throughout training. The Eagle Battalion is very proud Cadet Wolfe’s accomplishment.

So, what did you do over break? Enjoyed the sun, hit the slopes, or maybe took that class you needed? For these two cadets, break was filled with action, excitement, and adventure. There are many opportunities over breaks for fun trips and educational experiences, but what could be better than jumping out of planes and helicopters? Well, if you ask these two, then answer would be quite invariably “nothing.”

Cadet Intramural Soccer Team at Viterbo

CDT Holly Hanson

It is that time again: the university intramural sporting season. Viterbo University offers many intramural team opportunities for students to compete against teams from Western Technical College. A soccer team composed of cadets Foley, Gies, Fusilier, Steen and Nordby, coached and lead by Cadet West, was formed in mid-January. The cadet team dons their Army physical fitness t-shirts for each game and begins each game with an Army warm up consisting of

side straddle hops and push-ups in cadence. "We thought it would be cool and intimidate the other teams" says CDT Foley with a big smile. According to CDT Foley, the team has not earned a win this season. However, she states "it's a lot of fun though, only a couple of us have past experience playing soccer but we started working together well." CDT Foley credits the team as building camaraderie and team work among the MS I and MS II cadets on the team. She also stated that soccer is a great way for the cadets to incorpo-

rate a little extra physical training into their week. When asked if the intramural soccer team will continue next year, CDT Foley happily stated "I think we'll do it again, yes, we will."

The cadets from A Company can be caught in action on Tuesday nights at Viterbo University Mathy Center through the end of February, 2009. The cadet team will play two games against Western Technical College students between 1900-2100.

**"We thought it would be cool and intimidate the other teams."
- CDT Foley**

Outstanding Cadets of the Eagle Battalion

CDT Holly Cuhel

The Eagle Battalion had many outstanding cadets in the fall semester--individuals who strive to be the best and uphold Eagle Battalion standards. The officer corps looks for cadets that possess the triad for success, the potential to be a scholar, athlete, and leader.

Cadets with a 3.5 grade point average are at a great advantage when put through the accessions process to become an officer. Not only do cadets with good grades access higher, but they also have more opportunities in their future for obtaining a graduate-level education. Cadets with a 3.5 GPA for fall semester were Lacey Strobush, Sam Pankonen, Austin Wesley, Troy Lambert, Scott Wolfe, Paul Wanta, Tai

Allmaras-Zen, William Thompson, Katharina Schreier, Sarah Hesse, Beau Deters, John Staads and Jason Bartle. The outstanding scholar for Eagle Battalion is Calla Swenson with a cumulative GPA of 4.0.

Cadets with an APFT score of 270 and higher demonstrate self-discipline and the will to push themselves both physically and mentally. Cadets with a fall semester APFT score of 270 or higher are Shawn Sands, Scott Wolfe, Johnathan Bless, Amanda Dietzen, Jessica Morris, Whitney Mitten, Calla Swenson, James Volker, Tara Girolamo and Jorge Valdivieso. The outstanding athlete for the Eagle Battalion in the fall semester is CDT Elizabeth Fusilier with a perfect 300 on her APFT.

Leadership can be measured in

many ways. For the Eagle Battalion we look for leaders who step up, volunteer and accomplish their missions. CDT Lacey Strobush recently coordinated a successful Relay for Life team raising money for the American Cancer Society. CDT Elizabeth Foley and CDT Austin Wesley each lead a Color Guard team at campus activities. Both teams perform very well.

Congratulations to the outstanding cadets of the Eagle Battalion. Keep up the good work and encourage your peers to strive for the same high standards.



Fitness and the Eagle Battalion

CDT Danielle Kessler

As they do each month, Eagle Battalion cadets will take the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) on February 17th and 19th; the first APFT of the spring 2009 semester. Are they prepared? Well, least three MS-II cadets have been challenging themselves above and beyond the required three days a week of scheduled physical training (PT). CDT Samuel Pankonen and his roommate, CDT Austin Wesley, recently upgraded their apartment with a total gym system. Pull-up bars can be found on the back of their bathroom door. "Wesley and I have to do at least five pull-ups before using the bathroom," shares CDT Pankonen. Additionally, CDT Pankonen plays intramural volleyball at Viterbo University with fellow ROTC cadets. CDT Melissa Korish and CDT Theresa Schumer are two of his teammates who look forward to a competitive season. One of their rivals will be CDT Kyle Stellpflug, who also plays intramural volleyball and basketball.

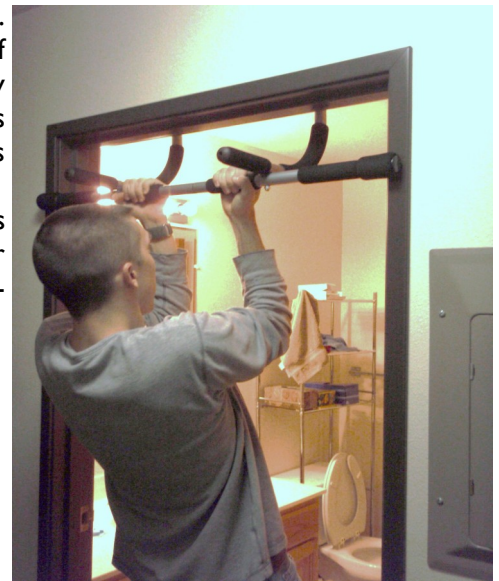
For these motivated cadets, working out and having a good time go hand in hand. Playing sports or working out with friends can benefit both physical and mental health. In addition, many diseases, such as heart disease, are preventable with regular exercise and a healthy diet. "I try to work out four times a week outside of normal PT," shares CDT Stellpflug, "two days of upper body weights alternated with two days of abs and legs." CDT Stellpflug is not the only cadet who schedules time to exercise in addition to mandatory Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday PT. CDT Whitney Mitten scores 100% on both the run and push-up event during the APFT by making physical

fitness apart of her daily routine. "I try to do at least 30 minutes of cardio each day. Then, since my week spot is sit-ups, I do five sets (20 repetitions each) of crunches or sit-up exercises."

Exceeding physical fitness standards is an important goal for all Eagle Battalion cadets since do-

"You have to lead men in war by requiring more from the individual than he thinks he can do. You have to (bring) them along to endure and to display qualities of fortitude that are beyond the average man's thought of what he should be expected to do. You have to inspire them when they are hungry and exhausted and desperately uncomfortable and in great danger; and only a man of positive characteristics of leadership, with the physical stamina (fitness) that goes with it, can function under those conditions." --General of the Army George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, World War II

ing so is one of the keys to being an effective Army officer. Two physical fitness leaders in the Eagle Battalion are Cadets Elizabeth Fusilier, an MS-I, and Holly Cuhel, an MS-IV. Both scored an outstanding 300 on the final APFT of the 2008 semester, which means these cadets earned the maximum



CDT Wesley demonstrating score in each APFT

event, including the 2-minute push-up and sit-up event as well as the 2 mile run.

Achieving physical fitness takes time and commitment. Army leaders are physically fit and ensure their subordinates are fit as well because they know physically fit soldiers perform better in all areas. Physically fit leaders are better able to make decisions and act appropriately under pressure. This semester, APFT goals have increased from what they were during fall semester. The cadet battalion commander, Corey McCaigue, has likewise increased the Battalion APFT goal to 265. We will soon see if Eagle Battalion cadets can meet this challenge.

How to be Smart with Your Money

CDT Matthew Johnson

Money is a tricky thing for most college students. It is something we don't have much of, and so many things eat away at the little bit that we do have. With the current state of the economy, there are a few tips on how to be smart with your money.

1) Make a budget. A budget is a great way to take control of your finances. Budgeting helps you keep track of where your money goes and allows you to make decisions about what you should or should not spend money on. About.com recommends keeping track of all the purchases you make. It will show you how all the little things add up. Once you have your priorities budgeted, make sure to set aside an amount for free spending. Save the rest of your in-

come.

2) Save as much as you can. When you go to a store, know what you are getting and how much you are paying per unit. By looking into how much you get for your money you can end up saving a lot. It may only be a couple of cents per item, but over a year those cents add up.

3) Use a saving account. Once you start to save, make sure you put that money into a separate savings account. Savings accounts have compounded interest rates, which at first do not add up to a lot, but over time start to grow to large amounts. Do not touch the money in a savings account except in emergencies.

4) Don't buy on credit. While it is good to establish some credit, spend with cash or cash equivalents as much as possible. Re-

member that whenever you buy in credit you are using somebody else's money and they will want to be compensated for its use.

5) Investments. While most of us don't think too much about investments right now, it's never too soon to start investing. Now with the economy in recession it's not a bad time to think about investing. The economy always goes in cycles; stocks that have fallen will eventually rise again. Remember that there is always risk in any investment, however. If you have invested already now is not a good time to sell. Stocks that are sold now most likely will result in a loss, where as waiting a few months to a year may allow those stocks to recover.

Improve Your GPA

CDT Sarah Hesse

The beginning of each semester is a new chance for every student to obtain a better GPA. GPA, along with your APFT score, account for a considerable amount of your Order of Merit (OML) ranking. But just how do you go about raising your GPA?

Studying is always the sage advice given out, but that alone cannot raise your GPA--especially if studying is not your thing. Make an effort to jazz it up! Get together with those in your class and compete with one another to see who can answer the most questions correctly. Change your environment and get out of that library. Study at someone's house or outside when

the weather is nice. Simply changing your environment can get rid of the temptation to leave studying to the last minute and break up the monotony.

While this may seem simple, pick a major that interests and inspires you to want to learn more. College takes up four years or more of your time and you should enjoy it as much as you can. Do not get stuck in a major that you feel is expected of you or will get you the best job. Being excited about what you are learning is more important than any high paying job that you cannot stand. Everyone dreads those General Education classes, but the school gives you many choices so pick ones you like. The same goes for classes within

your major. Along with those "core classes," you usually have a certain credit load that is given to choosing electives within your major. This is specifically designed to give the student a chance to focus specifically on what interests them in their subject field.

Finally, take classes with your friends. You are less likely to skip and pay more attention if another person is there. You are able to compare notes and be a support system for each other. Be active and involved in your academics and your GPA will reflect your efforts!