Commander’s Corner

Religion in the Military

Professor of Military Science
LTC James R. Hill

The Army was designed from its inception to allow Soldiers time to reflect on their faith and to have a fellowship in their faith with those of like mind. The Chaplain Corps in the Army has been the organization that has enabled that to occur and Army Chaplains have provided that service. The stated Army purpose of the Chaplain Corps is “to offer religious services, counseling, and moral support to the armed forces, whether in peacetime or at war.” In addition, Chaplains provide support for important Soldier issues such as counseling for suicide intervention, awareness, and prevention and sexual harassment and assault response prevention. They also support every effort for Casualty Notification and offer immeasurable help to the Casualty Notification Officer and the affected family. Further, Chaplains help Army families by providing marriage retreats, which help couples work through marital problems. This is just a short list of the support that Chaplains provide to the Army, but it clearly demonstrates their importance.

As evidence of the importance of chaplains and religion in the Army, many important Army leaders have gone to great lengths to highlight the importance of religion in the military and have supported the Chaplains Corps. That was certainly true in a speech by Major General Douglas L. Carver, the Commanding General of the Chaplain Corps, when he spoke to ROTC Cadets at the 2010 George C. Marshall Awards and Leadership Seminar. In that speech, he highlighted the importance of religion to Soldiers as well as the importance and relevance of the Chaplain Corps to leaders. He spoke at this seminar primarily to highlight the impact that General George C. Marshall had on religion in the Army. He even noted that his very position as a Major General in the Chaplain Corps was directly attributed to General Marshall’s efforts and focus on religion.

There is no doubt that Marshall deliberately included his faith as a facet of his leadership. His devotion to his faith is unmistakably present in his speeches, and that is clear in a speech he gave to the citizens of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, when he was the Chief of Staff of the Army, just prior to America’s participation in World War II. In this speech, he considered the difficult days ahead and summed his comments with the following statement, “It comes to me that we should daily thank the good Lord that we live where we do, think as we do, and enjoy blessings that are becoming rare privileges on this earth.” In another even more telling speech he delivered at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, on June 15, 1941, he discussed his soul and the souls of men and then connected that to the concept of morale for Soldiers. He stated in his
speech, “If I were back in my office I would not have referred to my soul. Instead, I should have used the word “morale” and said that this occasion increased my “morale” – in other words, was of spiritual benefit to me.” He also mentioned that morale was a concept that was closely connected to a Soldier’s spiritual strength, courage, and hope. He added that “it is élan, esprit de corps, and determination.” From this he also made the following profound statement, “The [S]oldier’s heart, the [S]oldier’s spirit, the [S]oldier’s soul are everything. Unless the [S]oldier’s soul sustains him he cannot be relied on and will fail himself and his commander and his country in the end.” This was a key quote referred to by Carver in his speech to Cadets.

In, The Pentagon’s Battle for the American Mind, Lori Lyn Bogle notes that Marshall extended the influence of religion in the military when in 1951 (while he served as the Secretary of Defense) he created and initiated the Character Guidance Program. She notes that Marshall ordered “commanding officers to increase their efforts to improve the spiritual morale of their personnel.” As she also highlights, this resulted in chaplains interviewing each recruit “to determine their spiritual status and to inform them of the religious activities available.” She further notes that, “If a recruit had not been baptized before he enlisted, the chaplain ‘strongly’ encouraged the man to enroll in religious instruction classes held in the evenings or on Sunday afternoons to help him complete this Christian sacrament.” These efforts by Marshall acting as Secretary of Defense undeniably demonstrate that he was a military leader focused on leading with a style steeped in religious ideology. He thought this way because World Wars I and II taught him that America fought wars as a force of good against evil.

The strong role that religion played in Marshall's leadership was equally evident in Eisenhower's leadership style. While in the army, he attended service at post chapels wherever he was stationed. In addition the influence of religion in his leadership style is evident in many of the comments he made while in the Army. For example, Eisenhower made the following comment regarding the decision to begin the amphibious landings in Normandy, France.

If there were nothing else in my life to prove the existence of an almighty and merciful God, the events of the next twenty-four hours did it. This is what I found out about religion. It gives you courage to make the decisions you must make in a crisis, and then the confidence to leave the result to higher power. Only by trust in one’s self and trust in God can a man carrying responsibility find repose.6 This comment is revealing about in how he connected faith and leadership. He believed, essentially, that there comes a time when leaders must have faith in God. If leaders are righteous men and live honorably and according to the teachings of God, then when they are confronted with a leadership decision that requires the courage to trust a higher power, they will find the strength and confidence in God to make the right decision for themselves and those that they lead.

When interviewed just after World War II, he stated that he was “the most intensely religious man I know. Nobody goes through six years of war without faith.”7 Also, as is evident in his comments to troops in battle, he truly felt that he and those that he led were enduring the tragedy of war because it was a war between good and evil. Eisenhower believed that the Axis powers were truly evil, and that he was leading a crusading effort to crush evil so that good could prevail; in fact, he even titled his war memoirs, Crusade in Europe. In his memoirs, the following passage clearly shows his belief that he was leading a religious crusade against evil:

Daily as it progressed there grew within me the conviction that as never before in war between nations the forces that stood for human good and men’s rights were this time confronted by a completely evil conspiracy with which no compromise could be tolerated. Because only the utter destruction of the Axis was a decent world possible, the war became for me a crusade in the traditional sense of that often misused word.8

Certainly, Eisenhower’s deeply religious views impacted how he handled discipline for his troops, how he spoke with them, and how he guided them in war. Like Marshall, Eisenhower believed that Soldiers needed to be led knowing that they were fighting a righteous fight, and that they were in a crusade against evil. Finally, to add more evidence regarding the influence of religion on Eisenhower’s leadership, when he later became President, he had
LTC James Hill
Eagle Battalion Commander

"In God we Trust" added as the national motto and he also had the words “under God” added to the Pledge of Allegiance.

As a current Army officer, I have enjoyed the ability to practice my faith while in uniform. That was especially true when I was in the field and deployed. I remember the first time that as a Catholic I was able to celebrate Mass in the field and with an Army Chaplain. Admittedly, I was skeptical about what the quality of the Mass would be in the field, but after the Mass, I was impressed both with the quality and the uniqueness of the service. It also was a nuance to the Army that I never really considered until I was actually sitting through it and for me it added to the allure of the Army. Unlike during Marshall’s time, this aspect of Army life was never really discussed with me during the recruiting process.

While deployed, the ability to practice my faith while away from my family and in harm’s way was absolutely vital for me and enabled me to have a semblance of normality and spiritual comfort. It also served as a unique forum that leveled rank and position. In fact, my immediate supervisor was a fellow congregant and took a leadership role in one Mass and in another Mass in Afghanistan when I turned around to shake hands I was face-to-face with a very imposing and tall three star general. That noted, during my career I have seen many and women of all ranks take a break from their normal full time military jobs and enjoy an opportunity to reflect on their faith and enjoy fellowship with other Soldiers. In my opinion, during a deployment this aspect of Army life helped develop interpersonal work relationships and it helped keep things in perspective.

For ROTC Cadets, they can be a part of a non-ROTC organization called Valor. This is a voluntary, outside of ROTC, Cadet-led bible study organization that is present at many ROTC Battalions. For some of the Cadets of Eagle Battalion that are interested, Valor meets once a week to discuss bible scripture and topics related to serving in the military as a Christian. A current MSIV and soon-to-be Second Lieutenant, Cadet Melissa Ziegler enjoyed her experience in Valor as a Cadet. She looked forward to Valor each week because it allowed her an opportunity to study the bible and it gave her an opportunity to meet other Cadets who had similar values. Additionally, Cadet Ziegler noted that each year Valor puts on a weekend retreat for Cadets in the upper Midwest. The retreat includes sessions led by experienced military officers who talk about their experiences as Christian officers. Two summers ago, she and another Cadet went white-water rafting, rock climbing, rappelling and backpacking in Colorado. In addition to the adventure activities, Cadet Ziegler noted, “Valor leaders provided us with spiritual discussions and talked to us about the struggles and triumphs of being a Christian leader in the military.” She also added, “Valor has given me many resources to develop my spiritual health and adapt my leadership to include my values.”

Notes
   #Army_Champlain_Center_and_School

7. Ibid., 185, 327.
Retirement

Senior Military Instructor
MSG Scott Heise

Officer stuff and Infantry stuff; the two things I spent my career avoiding. Infantry stuff because, as combat medic, if I was dealing with an infantryman, it was a bad day for the infantryman and officer stuff because, as a noncommissioned officer, I never really understood how officers added value or made my life any easier. Ironic that my final duty assignment is one in which I employ infantry tactics to teach leadership to our future officers.

Before this assignment (maybe still), I was naïve and idealistic about what I thought it took to become an Army officer. I believed that only the best and brightest earned the privilege of leading our Soldiers. I thought that all of our officers were 4.0 students, scored three hundred on the APFT and were above reproach morally and ethically. As an enlisted Soldier, I felt that the system had somehow failed when officers failed to meet these standards. I thought that as hard as it was for me to advance through the NCO ranks it must be nearly impossible to become an Army officer. Surely this must be the case, or what had these young men and women done to earn the privilege of leading Soldiers like me?

When I arrived at Eagle Battalion, I was a firm believer in the trait theory of leadership – we are born with our leadership qualities and apply them once we have acquired sufficient technical and tactical ability. It never occurred to me that ROTC existed to invest four years into the behavioral leadership theory; four years to develop and refine the leadership abilities of our future lieutenants. To credit the Army, and the leaders I have had throughout my career, developing the leadership skills of Cadets is not much different than the leadership development I have been doing with my NCOs for the last 20 years. Well, maybe there were a couple of slight differences...

Empathy. Empathy was definitely not a word I learned from my corporal and sergeants – mission first and never quit was the message I received. Empathy was not the message I received from my platoon sergeants – mission first and never quit was the message I received from my platoon sergeants. Empathy was not the message I received from my First Sergeant – mission first and never quit was the message I received from my First Sergeant. The 1st Division motto is “No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great, duty first! “Consider my feelings” was never part of the leadership decision – and as naturally follows, those feelings were never allowed to take root... Luckily for my Soldiers they had my wife Shauna to provide the empathic insight to me – because I didn’t understand it – and more importantly, I didn’t care. My role was to accomplish my mission and never quit. I held fast to this message throughout my career. It wasn’t until I arrived at Eagle Battalion, and saw the Cadet Command charge to Cadets, that I realized empathy had a legitimate place in leadership.

It was instilled in me from the beginning of my career that the mission always came first, and that if personal issues got in the way, those issues needed to be dealt with on my own time. The proverbial “If the Army wanted me to have a family, they would issue me one,” was offered, tongue in cheek, more times than I can remember. This isn’t to say that I could not have a fami-
the same sense of duty and service to the institution and our teammates that we have. And, that anything short of that is paying lip service to our leadership responsibilities.

Finally, leading Soldiers is not a right—it is privilege that must be earned. Ultimately, it is not about “me”; it is about “we” and what we do to keep our army strong. How we build our team and grow from the strengths of our teammates. Infantry stuff and officer stuff are important; they are important because they help define our roles on this team. They help us focus our efforts so that we can grow stronger as a team. Like the infantry Soldier, we need all of our officers to have the strength, and the empathy, to lead our sons and daughters through the toughest times.

Thank you Eagle Battalion for teaching me so much about leadership and life. I have been privileged to serve with such honorable and inspiring young women and men I will, forever, remember you!

CPT Pendleton

Assistant Professor of Military Science
CPT Christopher Pendleton
MSIII Instructor

It has been an exciting year so far and I have certainly learned a lot. It has been quite an interesting experience transitioning from company command to school instructor. Last fall was very busy. The MSIIIs and I went through some growing pains together as they learned new material such as the operations process and squad tactics and I learned how to teach these materials to them. We conducted a challenging FTX where the Cadets got to fire different machine guns, use state-of-the-art combat simulators and sharpen their day and night land navigation skills. It was a great semester.

This spring semester the MSIIIs have been working very hard preparing themselves for their time at LDAC this summer. Aside from their classroom requirements they have been through two demanding field training exercises this semester. During these training events the Cadets led both squad and platoon formations through several different scenarios such as raids and ambushes. The second FTX was held in conjunction with many different ROTC battalions from across the region and provided the added challenge of leading peers that most Cadets had never met before. Both of these training events were held at Ft. McCoy and provided the Cadets with a similar environment they will experience at LDAC in Ft. Knox.

I am looking forward to working with the MS IIIs next fall as they transition into their MS III year. As the summer draws to a close we will begin the new academic year with the Cadet Staff Planning Workshop on 23-24AUG14. In this workshop the Cadets will be introduced to my expectations for the semester, new teamwork concepts and the combat orders process. These incoming MS IIIs have already proven to be an exceptional group and I am sure we will have an outstanding year together!
New Senior Military Science Instructor

MSG Weisensel will be the new Senior Military Instructor for Eagle Battalion. He is currently serving in a Ranger Training Battalion and will report in August. Next school year, he will serve as the MSII instructor. The following is a short biography about MSG Weisensel:

MSG Weisensel arrived at Fort Benning, GA on 11 March, 1998 and completed OSUT and the 11C mortar man course on 03 July, 1998. His first assignment was HHC, 2nd BN – 35th IN Reg, 25 ID (L), Schofield Barracks, HI as an 81mm mortar man. In August 2000, SGT Weisensel re-enlisted, changed his MOS to 11B and was reassigned to B Co, 1-504th PIR, 82nd ABN DIV, Fort Bragg, NC. From there, he deployed as a Squad Leader in support of Operation Enduring Freedom I, and Operation Iraqi Freedom II. January 2005, SSG Weisensel was assigned to C Co, 1-19th IN Reg, Fort Benning, GA, as a Senior Drill Sergeant. In October of 2006, SFC Weisensel volunteered to work as a Drill Sergeant Instructor at the Fort Benning Drill Sergeant School. In January 2008, SFC Weisensel was reassigned to A Co, 2nd BN 8th IN Reg, 4th ID (M), Fort Carson, CO. From there he deployed as a Platoon Sergeant in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom VII. Upon redeployment, he moved to Dahlonega, GA to work as a Ranger Instructor in A co, 5th RTB, in November 2009. 1SG Weisensel was assigned as the First Sergeant of B Co, 5th RTB in January 2010. In March 2012, 1SG Weisensel deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XII. He was attached to the 1st Infantry Division’s Staff as the J3 Operations Sergeant, and redeployed in March 2013. March 2013, 1SG Weisensel was assigned as the First Sergeant of HHC, 5th RTB. MSG Weisensel is currently on assignment to the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

MSG Weisensel is a graduate of numerous Army schools including: WLC, ALC, SLC, Army Basic Instructor Course, Total Army Instructor Trainer Course, Tactics Certification Course, Airborne school, Air Assault school, Jumpmaster School, Pathfinder School, Mechanized Leaders Course, US Army Combatives Level I – II, Drill Sergeant School, and Ranger School.

MSG Weisensel’s awards and decorations include: Bronze Star (3 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Valorous Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal (5th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2 CS), Iraq Campaign Medal (2 CS), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NATO ISAF medal – Drivers Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge, Path Finder Badge, Parachutist Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Expert Infantryman’s Badge, Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Canadian Parachutist Wings, a member of the Order of St Maurice, and the coveted Ranger Tab.

MSG Weisensel is married to the former Rebecca Fagan of Platteville, Wisconsin, and they have three children.
Wisconsin Army National Guard

SFC Kevin LeQue
Eagle Battalion-WIARNG Team 11
National Guard Recruiter
MSI Instructor

Hello Eagle BN. As the year comes to a close, I'd like to say thanks for all your hard work and effort you put into everything this year. This Spring we saw a push from National Guard Bureau (NGB) and Cadet Command to award Guarantee Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) and Dedicated Scholarships. In addition, NGB awarded Scholarships to those that have already contracted, but didn't take a scholarship at the time of contracting. One of these two Scholarships could take care of your Room/Board each semester, or tuition. If you're already in the WI Guard, you're receiving the 100% tuition reimbursement, and you could use one of the two scholarships to pay for Room and Board. If you took a GRFD scholarship, you would commission into the Guard or Reserve. If you took a Dedicated Guard Scholarship, you would commission into the Guard.

These options may be attractive to those that are planning on going to graduate school, or have big plans with your degree.

As you know I travel around the state to other Universities/ROTC Battalions. As a whole, approximately 50% of Cadets are Simultaneous Membership Program Cadets with the Guard or Reserve. Many of those enlisted into the Guard or Reserve as an MSI and start receiving college benefits during their Freshman year. If you have any questions about the WI Guard and the benefits, don't hesitate to contact me.

Have a great summer and good luck to all of you that are going to Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training, or Cadet Summer Training.

SFC Kevin LeQue
Team 11 NCOIC
520 Mill St
Tomah, WI 54660
Cell (608) 633-9258
Fax (608) 372-3943
kevin.d.que.mil@mail.mil

Welcome Mr. John Martin!

New Recruiting Operations Officer
Mr. Martin

Mr. John Martin assumed the role as the Recruiting Operations Officer in February 2014.

Prior to moving to Wisconsin, I was living in Arizona. I am originally from Bluefield, West Virginia and served in the Army for 22 years, retiring in November 2011 as a Command Sargent Major (CSM). I was in Military Intelligence.

I have served many places during my active duty career. Some of my favorite places included the following: The White House, Washington, DC; Fort Gordon, GA; Fort Lewis, WA; the Naval Intelligence Command in Port Magu, California; and Naval Intelligence Command/Army South at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. I’ve also completed multiple overseas assignments and deployments to include Southwest Asia, Kuwait, Korea, Japan, Germany, and Egypt.

I have an Associate’s Degree in Administration/Management and a Bachelor’s Degree in Radio Communication. In addition, I have a daughter who lives in Georgia and a son in Arizona. In my spare time I like to walk, jog, and hike. I also enjoy listening to country music.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of the cadets and working to bring new cadets into the ROTC program. I am excited about this new challenge.

Please feel free to stop by my office anytime if I can be of assistance, or if you just want to sit and chat. You can also reach me by phone at 608-785-8408.
Bataan Memorial Death March

CDT Kyle Kennedy
Cadet Battalion Commander

For the second year in a row Eagle Battalion ROTC participated in the Bataan Memorial Death March. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the memorial march, which takes place at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. This event is dedicated to honoring the service members who defended the Philippine Islands during the early years of WWII. Those who defended the islands found themselves without food or ammunition, but continued to fight. On April 9, 1942 tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers surrendered to the Japanese forces. They became prisoners and were forced to conduct a rigorous march over multiple days while being beaten and some were murdered. Thousands of prisoners died and those who survived faced even further horrors once they made it to Japanese prison camps.

The memorial death march is a 26.2 mile weighted ruck march. There are three categories to participate in the march. There is a running category, a lightweight category, and heavy category. Eagle Battalion had four cadets participate in the heavy category to honor those service members who survived the death march. The cadets who participated were CDTs Tyler Betley, Ronald Zaleski, Kyle Kennedy and Erin Schneider. The Professor of Military Science, LTC James Hill also participated in the event with these cadets.

Through hard work and mental toughness all participants finished this challenging march as a team. This team trained for months prior to the event completing an eight mile, twelve mile, and eighteen mile ruck marches before the event. Those who accomplished this event all feel a great sense of pride to be a part of such an honorable task and to continue remembering those who endured the Bataan Death March in the Philippines.

LDAC to CST: Change in Name, But Not a Change in Preparation

CDT Matthew Wright
Cadet Bravo Company Commander

This year Cadet Command moved the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) from Joint Base Lewis McChord to Fort Knox. With this change of location also came a change of name LDAC is now known as Cadet Summer Training (CST). The goal of this change is to improve the quality of training Cadets receive and consolidate Cadet Summer Training with the Leader’s Training Course (LTC). The move to Fort Knox was the beginning of a change of focus for Cadet Summer Training, the new focus involves critical thinking and better reactions under stress. In conjunction with this change, the tactical portion of Cadet Summer Training has changed from years past. The major change for this portion is a move away from squad tactics to platoon size patrolling. Cadets will no longer be leading squad level missions; instead, they will be trained in and be expected to lead platoon missions. Along with this change CST will no longer include the Field Leaders Reaction Course or Water Confidence Course. In addition, land Navigation has also moved away from cluster points. While changes have been made to LDAC, preparation at the individual level is still very important and remains similar.

Preparation for CST or LDAC falls into two categories: physical and mental. Throughout the year, MSIIIs learn teamwork, communication skills, confidence, and leadership through experience. MSIIIs are expected to lead Physical Readiness Training and tactical labs. By the nature of this leadership, MSIIIs gain confidence and learn what it takes to lead groups of people. While MSIIIs’ leadership skills have been improved upon throughout the year there are things MSIIIs can do to improve themselves prior to Cadet Summer Training. As an MSIII the thing I spent the most time studying was tactics. Having a solid foundation of tactical knowledge will benefit you and...
other Cadets will rely on your experiences. Having a higher level of knowledge than your peers sets you apart and helps build your credibility. With this credibility comes respect from your peers and makes them more willing to follow you. Probably more important than studying tactics is understanding the Operations Order (OPORD). When in a leadership position, your OPORD is where you issue your mission and how the mission is to be conducted. Your OPORD is your chance to shine and set the tone for the rest of your leadership rotation. Your peers will notice every mistake in your OPORD and these mistakes hurt your credibility. To improve your OPORDs, meet with your peers and practice flipping OPORDs and issuing them. After you do this, practice again with your MSIV coach. Continue to practice OPORDs until you have a good flow and can brief them in a way that appears natural and relaxed.

Second, physical preparation is key to success. Throughout the year, MSIIIIs work to improve their APFT Score. This score works towards your accessions and the APFT was one of the first major hurdles of LDAC. Being physically fit is something that your peers notice and a high APFT score is an easy way to set you apart. In order to prepare for the LDAC APFT, we did several things. As a class we had “Warrior PRT” this PRT Session was geared toward APFT improvement and it really works. On my own, I focused on running, since that was my weakest event. I ran on my own 4 days a week alternating between interval type running and distance running. This helped both increase my speed and endurance. Whatever your weakest event on the APFT, focus on improving that daily. Set goals for you to achieve physically and strive to meet them. These small personal goals will lead to your overall improvement on the APFT. The next thing to work on physically is ruck marching. Through much of LDAC we had to carry our equipment in our rucks, and it became evident who had prepared for and who had failed to prepare. In order to become ready for this as a class, we ruck marched on trails through Hixon forest often leaving the trails and rucking through uneven terrain. This type of ruck marching helped prepare me for patrolling at LDAC. Besides the APFT and ruck marching you must develop overall fitness. This fitness will help you with all of the events at LDAC. LDAC will wear down your level of fitness gradually throughout the 29 days so coming in with a high level of fitness ensures that you are still able to not only complete the tasks but also lead them throughout the whole 29 days. In order to achieve this general fitness, I also lifted weights and did body weight exercises in conjunction with the ruck marching and cardio. Even with all of this preparation there were still things I wish I had known.

Going into LDAC I felt extremely prepared but some things still came as a surprise to me. For one, there will be people who you cannot stand at training and you have to learn to work with that person. Some personalities just clash, but you cannot let yourself portray those emotions and you must learn to work with those people. Secondly, you probably will get the “Cadet Crud.” At some point in training almost every Cadet gets sick and you must drive on through this and still be a leader. Next, you will have a “spot light ranger” and that person will probably do well. While the evaluations are comprehensive in tactics you are most noticed while in leadership, and you will have a person in your squad or platoon who does not pull their weight when in a followership position but does everything to impress the evaluator and shine while in leadership. The final thing I wish I had known is that you will become extremely close with your squad mates, you will learn their strengths and their weaknesses, their hobbies, their likes and dislikes, and their background. As a squad you will learn to work together as a team and how to motivate each other.

While LDAC has now been changed to Cadet Summer Training the events are alike. What you do to prepare on your own will set you apart from your peers and help you to gain credibility with them. While you prepare and work towards bettering yourself you develop yourself into an asset for your future squad and platoon at CST. Even with the preparation there will still be things that surprise and challenge you. My experience at LDAC was a great one where I had the opportunity to work with some amazing people. With the changes to LDAC, the MSIIIIs experience will be different but it will be one that will challenge them and they will remember.
Eagle Battalion Athletes

CDT Michael Oney
Cadet Command Sergeant Major

Eagle Battalion has been fortunate to have several great athletes commissioned as second lieutenants. The program encourages student athletes to join, as they generally fit the mold and character of the program and they serve as great role models for junior Cadets. Beyond having just varsity athletes, Eagle Battalion also has several Cadets every year who are very active in the university’s intramural sports. These Cadets play on many teams from basketball, volleyball, flag football to Ultimate Frisbee. Athletics plays a large part in this ROTC program as it provides Cadets the opportunities to build on teamwork and foster esprit de corps.

This year is quite different than years past in Eagle Battalion as there are seven varsity athletes in our program. Five of these Cadets are MSIs, one is an MSIIB and one is an MSII is in his second year. Cadets Hyde and Emerick (MSIs) both play football for the UW-L Eagles and are competing to see action on the field this coming fall. Cadets Mrdjenovich (MSIII) and Jordan (MSII) compete on the Viterbo University Men’s Track and Field team while Cadet Harem (MSI) competes on Viterbo’s Women’s team. On Saturday, April 12, 2014, at the Warrior Invitational at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Cadet Harem for the second week in a row topped her personal best and set the school record in the javelin throw at 28.82 meters taking second place overall. Both Cadet Mrdjenovich and Cadet Jordan also did great things earlier this season. On Saturday, February 1, 2014, Cadet Mrdjenovich was part of the record setting 1600m relay (4x400) with the time of 3:37.29 at the Warren Bowlus Open at UW-Stout. At this same meet, Cadet Jordan long-jumped.

Cadet Hyde with his family after a football game.

Cadet Jordan long-jumping.

Cadet Harem throwing a javelin.

As you can see, the athletes in Eagle Battalion have had excellent seasons in their respective sports. Each of these Cadets brings a bright future to the program as their success in athletics has only led them to success in ROTC. Eagle Battalion holds a high standard of character and morale and the success of these athletes mirror what is to come from the men and women as future Army officers. Eagles Lead The Way!
Army Traditions

CDT Ashley Janovich
Cadet S-1/S-2

“The Army has numerous traditions, most of which began after the Army was founded on June 14th, 1775. Although some traditions have been adopted from the British Army, there are a few that generated are American. Among these traditions are ceremonies that celebrate the teamwork, pride, and discipline that soldiers demonstrate year-round. These ceremonies build esprit de corps and honor the Army way of life. A few common ceremonies include parades, award recognition, and formal dining. The Army Birthday Ball, the Military Ball, and the Army Dining In are three well-known Army formal dining traditions that service members look forward to celebrating with their comrades.

The Army Birthday Ball is celebrated every year on the Army’s birthday, June 14th. It’s typically an all-day event, with a swearing-in ceremony for those who wish to enlist, a cake cutting ceremony, music from the Army Band, and then the Army Birthday Ball to end the day. The ball is a formal event that commemorates the soldiers, families, and civilians who uphold the Army Values and achieve excellence throughout the year, maintaining high moral and ethical standards. Although each unit can have their own celebration, there is always a large commemoration held nationally. This year celebrates the Army’s 239th birthday and will be held in Tampa Bay, Florida at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort.

Similar to the Birthday Ball, the Military Ball is a tradition that the Army celebrates every year. During this event, Army soldiers and officers dress up in their Army Service Uniforms (ASUs) for a formal dinner, alongside their guests. To start the evening, members and their guests go through a receiving line, during which everyone is introduced to leadership and distinguished guests, creating a familiarity for the night. Next, the colors are posted and the National Anthem is sung, followed by the invocation, the commander’s opening remarks, toasts, and presentation of the Soldier’s Creed and the Cadet Creed (during an ROTC event). If a guest speaker is present, he/she will then speak to the crowd and dinner will be served. Following dinner, a social hour and dance can be arranged in order to give guests an opportunity to interact with one another.

The Dining In is another annual formal event similar to the Military Ball, however it is only for service members, and no guests. It has its own traditions and is held annually for members within a unit. One strong Army tradition at every formal dining event is the presence of the POW/MIA table that is in remembrance for those fallen comrades. This table is small and set for one, with a white tablecloth and single yellow rose with a red ribbon tied around the vase. A slice of lemon and salt are placed upon the bread plate, symbolizing those soldiers’ bitter fate and the families’ tears. In addition, there is a single, white candle and glass that is inverted upon the table, and to finish this remembrance, a salute is given. An Army tradition specific to the Dining In includes Rules of the Mess, such as no toasting from an uncharged glass and no leaving of the dining room without the permission of the President of the Mess, or the presiding officer, however this can vary from unit to unit. Members must know proper etiquette and follow the established protocols or face embarrassing tasks performed in front of the entire room. To begin the night, thirty minutes are set aside for socializing, and then the President of the Mess asks that everyone be seated. Dinner is served and the President of the Mess states that the food is “tasty and fit for human consumption,” signaling that it is okay to begin eating. Next, the grog bowl is prepared and everyone is served a portion of the drink. The grog bowl can contain either alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks and there is always a Master of the Punch/Master of the Grog who explains the symbolism of each item within the bowl. These ingredients have been carefully selected in remembrance of the history and tradition of the U.S. Army. An example of this is fruit punch that symbolizes the blood shed in past wars. Toasts are then made to the different branches, to the president, to the United States of America, and to our fallen comrades. At the end of the evening, skits or some form of entertainment are presented to the group by either by squad or platoon as a cheerful way to end the night.
Eagle Battalion in Our Community

CDT Jordan Heise
Cadet S-3

Anywhere from one month to four years from now, the Cadets of Eagle Battalion ROTC will rise to the coveted position of officer in the United States Army. This is no small task to achieve. It takes courage to break out of your shell, interact with people early on, and then later take the reins and lead your fellow Cadets. As a freshman or sophomore, it takes patience to follow leaders who are learning and making mistakes while doing so. As a junior or senior, patience must be used while leading subordinates. It takes strength to push yourself through physical training and challenging events in the field. And finally, it takes communication skills to be able to work well with others and come together as a team to reach a common goal. These are just a few of the skills that are needed to be an effective Army officer. Many of these skills are learned through the curriculum and trials Cadets must face pushing themselves and each other to succeed, but another important element which enables Cadets to fully grow is community involvement.

As many Cadets are interested in joining the Army to support the country and its citizens, several come into the program with an interest in making the world around them a better place. For those that have different motives, ROTC showcases the benefits of community involvement by proving time and again the effectiveness and necessity of teamwork to reach one's full potential. As a result, many Cadets are driven to explore options which allow them to better enable their community to grow. Several Cadets in Eagle Battalion have majors that focus in areas which benefit their communities such as nursing, criminal justice, psychology, and social work. There are also a large number of Cadets who participate in clubs and organizations around campus often holding leadership positions, or resident assistant (RA) positions in dorms. When seeing Cadets who have been exposed to Eagle Battalion for at least a semester around campus, you will often find them holding doors for people, picking up trash, and maintaining polite and respectful interactions with those around them. Despite the chosen majors, organizational ties, and friendly behaviors, the place where ROTC allows Cadets to grow and develop as positive reflections of their community and the Army is in its opportunities to volunteer around the community.

ROTC offers many opportunities for students to volunteer. One of the most notable opportunities is Color Guard. The Color Guard is a group of Cadets who support major ceremonies and events through the proper respect and presentation of the National Colors (also known as the flag). This is one of the ways in which Cadets can show respect for both the community who supports them, and the occupation they endeavor to be a part of.

Each year Eagle Battalion Cadets participate in at least one volunteer event within our community. These include events such as helping with a blood drive or ringing bells for the Salvation Army. Through this work, Cadets are able to develop a further sense of responsibility for the country they intend to one day serve. Outside of the events which ROTC facilitates, Cadets are encouraged and supported by their organization, as well as their peers to seek out other volunteer options on their own. Eagle Battalion is in no small supply of Cadets who are actively seeking opportunities to better their communities and themselves. Many Cadets come together to support events such as Relay for Life and local blood drives.

Community involvement is an important aspect of the development of young leaders. Not only does it allow the Cadets of Eagle Battalion to give back to the community which has supported it so much over the years, it also allows for Cadets to develop many of the skills needed as an Army Officer while helping them connect to the community which they wish to protect.
Northern Warfare Challenge and The 339th Infantry Regiment

CDT Alex Hefner
Cadet S-4

In February of 2014, Eagle Battalion launched a new event that was inspired by the Army’s Northern Warfare School. The 2014 Northern Warfare Challenge proved to be a tough event for all participants both physically and mentally. Cadets from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities (Gopher Battalion) joined Eagle Battalion’s Cadets in the first run of what could become an annual and expanding tradition for La Crosse. In addition to bragging rights, the school of the first place team received a streamer with the image of a polar bear on it, in honor of the 339th Infantry Regiment that bore the animal’s name in the early 20th century. While Gopher Battalion took the streamer this year, Eagle Battalion looks to reclaim it next year.

For the Challenge, Cadets, in two-person teams, were put through a non-stop series of physically demanding events. The starting event was a team swim of 750 meters during which Cadets swam side by side the entire time, reinforcing the importance of never leaving a teammate behind. After the swim Cadets quickly changed into ACUs and began a rope climb and rock wall climb. Following this, they secured their rucksacks containing 25% of their body weight and began marching to their next event in Hixon Forest. Upon arriving, they put on snowshoes and completed a 5K march up and down the bluffs. After this they began a SKED litter course. The SKED is a litter that is designed to be drug across snow, acting as a sled as well as a litter. For this event they loaded both of their rucks as well as sandbags weighing 75 lbs. onto the sked. The Cadets then drug the sked around a course for roughly 1000 meters until they reached a rope bridge. This proved to be the toughest event of the day for all participants. Both participants as well as the sked had to be moved safely across the rope bridge. Despite snowy and freezing conditions all participants made it across the bridge and rucked safely to the end point. One Cadet described the NWC as “by far the most challenging event other than Bataan [I’ve] done so far for Eagle Battalion. I pushed myself beyond my limit.” All participants brought honor to the Polar Bear Regiment through their resilience and intestinal fortitude.

The 339th Infantry Regiment “Polar Bear Regiment” was formed in 1917 for service in the American Siberian Expeditionary Force from volunteers in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. They were deployed to northern Russia to safeguard Allied supplies and troops from the Russian Civil War. After surviving multiple engagements with and the Red Army they were called back to the US after eight months in theater. They were recalled in World War II to serve in the North African theater. Their sacrifice in the face of overwhelming odds in brutal conditions makes them a source of pride for those in the upper Midwest as well as a fitting role model for those participating in the Northern Warfare Challenge this year and in the years to come.
Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness

CDT Melissa Ziegler
Cadet SS

The Army created a program called Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness, or CSF2, in an effort to build the strength of Soldiers and their families. Strength is not limited to just physical endurance. CSF2 encompasses 5 dimensions: physical, emotional, social, spiritual and family. In order to be a resilient, healthy Soldier, a balance needs to be made between these 5 dimensions. Eagle Battalions has helped Cadets grow in each dimension.

Each Cadet participates in physical readiness training (PRT) at least twice a week. For Cadets that are training for an event, PRT is conducted up to five times a week. PRT helps Cadets increase their endurance, strength, and flexibility. In the fall semester, Cadets had the opportunity to listen to a nutritional specialist. A balanced diet and exercise regimen helps Cadets perform at their top level.

Good emotional health helps Soldiers, Cadets and families see challenges as opportunities to grow. One topic of emotional health that Cadets frequently talk about in classes is dealing with stress. The demands of school, ROTC, jobs and extracurricular events frequently put Cadets under a great deal of stress. Learning about healthy and unhealthy ways to cope with stress in class helps Cadets find effective coping mechanisms to use in their everyday life. Identifying stressors and dealing with them early helps prevent more severe emotional problems such as depression and substance abuse.

The third dimension of CSF2 is social health. Healthy relationships are necessary to a balance life. Eagle Battalion encourages strong, trusting relationships between Cadets. Each semester starts with a social. Two hours of training is devoted to fun activities such as bowling or ice skating. This allows Cadets the opportunity to talk with one another and introduce Cadets who have just joined the program.

During class, Cadets are encouraged to work with one another in group projects. During MSIII and MSIV year, the group work intensifies and Cadets need to work with one another to be successful. Similar struggles help Cadets develop and maintain solid relationships with one another.

Spiritual health helps Cadets find an inner strength, gives them meaning to life experiences and make ethical judgments. Some Eagle Battalion Cadets participate in a weekly Bible study called Valor. These Cadets join one another in fellowship to talk about teachings and leading with their spiritual beliefs as a priority. Valor helps Cadets grow in their spirituality by asking challenging questions. This strength will be used later when Cadets are faced with ethical dilemma and need to help their subordinates make an ethically-sound decision.

The last dimension of CSF2 is family. Family is an important resource for Soldiers and Cadets. A healthy, supportive family provides a cornerstone for Cadets. Families give Cadets love and resources they need to be successful in their lives. Each school year begins with a freshman orientation for new Cadets. Families, especially parents, are invited and encouraged to attend a meeting during orientation. The meeting explains to loved ones what their Cadet will be doing during their ROTC experience and what the outcome will be. Throughout the year, family members are invited to events such as the dining-out and award ceremonies to support their Cadet.

A balance between the five dimensions in CSF2 is found only through hard work and a commitment to overall health. Often, one or two dimensions are really strong while the rest of the dimensions suffer. Overall health
The Ranger Buddy Competition is an annual event held at the University of Kansas, which combines many mentally and physically challenging tasks into one intensive day of competition. During this intensive day of competition, Cadets are pushed to their limits repeatedly, in one of the most challenging events an Army ROTC Cadet can participate in during their ROTC years.

In order to prepare themselves for the competition this year, the eight Eagle Battalion volunteers trained every morning for seven weeks learning and perfecting the skills they would be tested on at the competition. Every Monday each team went on a ruck march building their power and endurance for the qualification ruck at the competition. Every Wednesday and Friday the Cadets learned skills while conducting vigorous conditioning exercises, preparing them to be able to recall information while being exhausted.

The day of the competition began bright and early with a 15 kilometer ruck march at 0500, in which all teams compete for one of the limited slots to qualify for the rest of the events. Teams that made the cut moved onto complete six 6-10 minute lanes of knowledge-based skills such as first aid, knot tying, and weapon specific questions. Also mixed into these lanes, were vigorous physical tasks such as buddy carries, litter carries, individual movement techniques and more. After all teams completed the lanes, they participated in an unknown distance run, meaning they did not know how long they had to run to reach the finish line. By this time, all of the teams were exhausted, however they pushed themselves to their absolute limits and completed the run on sheer intestinal fortitude. Out of the four teams Eagle Battalion sent to participate, three qualified for the ruck march and completed all of the events, and all of the teams successfully represented Eagle Battalion in the Annual Ranger Buddy Competition.

Overall, the Cadets learned a great deal about teamwork, and built strong bonds within their teams through these rigorous challenges. By pushing each other to keep driving forward, while being entirely physically and mentally exhausted these participants demonstrated great commitment to their future soldiers, the Warrior Ethos, and Eagle Battalion.

On February 10, Eagle Battalion Cadets traveled to Marquette University to compete for the German Armed Forces Badge of Military Proficiency. Overall, Eagle Battalion Cadets worked hard throughout the entire competition. Cadet Brunshidle, Cadet Sowieja and Cadet Hatch earned a gold medal badge. Cadet Galbraith, Cadet Lavigne, Cadet Herman and Cadet Horacek earned a silver medal badge. Cadet Zaleski and Cadet Bartelt earned a bronze medal badge. These Cadets are now authorized to wear their hard-earned badges for the remainder of their careers. Each one of these Cadets worked hard and earned a badge only a small fraction of service members have been able to compete for. Eagles lead the way!
Ordnance Corps

CDT Erin Schneider
Cadet Executive Officer

The US Army Ordnance Branch was founded on 14 May 1912, but its long history dates back to Massachusetts Bay Colony’s first Master Gunner of Ordnance Samuel Sharpe. Since the American Revolution the support of the ordnance personnel has proved useful for maintenance, ammunition transportation, and repair. The Ordnance Branch has the oldest branch insignia dating back to 1832 of “shell and flame.” The simplicity of the shell and flame harmonizes with the armament of days gone by, while the action it connotes is applicable with equal force to the weapons of today.

The broad mission of the Ordnance Corps is to supply Army combat units with weapons and ammunition, including at times their procurement and maintenance.

As I have learned from orders, after commissioning, the first step in becoming an Ordnance officer is BOLC-B. BOLC-B is out of Fort Lee, Virginia, part of the Army Logistics University. All students report to Charlie Company, 71st Transportation Battalion. More information is easily found about OBOLC on the Army Logistics University website. Also information on the career path of an Ordnance officer can be found from the many links of the Army Ordnance site. For instance, after BOLC-B, lieutenants Ordnance branch officers develop functional skills defined by their area of concentration (AOC) for the first 3-4 years of their career. There are two AOCs for Ordnance officers Material Maintenance and Munitions Management Officer (AOC 91A) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (AOC 89E).

Explosive Ordnance Disposal is a volunteer career field for Ordnance officers. In order to receive EOD school orders out of ROTC there are 3 things a cadet must do: interview with the Ordnance Branch at LDAC, put Ordnance Branch in your top three choices for accession, and volunteer on your accessions packet for EOD (talk to your PMS). Cadets can also compete for EOD school slots and other schools during BOLC-B.

Once a cadet has been selected for EOD School, they should begin to initiate an investigation for a top secret clearance. Following that, fitness, basic science, and mathematical knowledge are important. As a newly commissioned Second Lieutenant, the officer will then complete BOLC-B and follow it by 39 weeks of advanced training. EOD School has two phases Phase I in Fort Lee and Phase II at Eglin AFB. EOD School has a very high attrition rate, due to safety violations and a large work load. Good luck!

Notes


Human Resource Assistant’s Corner

Charlene Purnell
Eagle Battalion HRA

Current MS III cadets will need to see me when you return from LDAC to begin the Accessions process. This is one of the most important and exciting times for you as cadets….finding out what branch you’ll receive and whether or not you’ve been selected for active or reserve duty. Please be sure to call me for an appointment when you return to La Crosse this summer.

Cadets who are planning to pursue a contract with ROTC this fall, contact me for an appointment so we can go over paperwork that is needed. Please bring a copy of your birth certificate and your banking account information (routing and account numbers) with you. If you’re an SMP cadet, I will need a copy of your MEPS physical in order to get you medically qualified.

One of the forms that seems to slow cadets down in the contracting process is the CC Form 104-R, Planned Academic Worksheet. This must be filled out by the cadet and signed by your academic advisor. If you’ve not done this yet, please make it a priority in the fall. If you do not have a copy of the 104-R yet, let me know and I will email it to you.

If you are traveling this summer for any type of training, please be sure to call and let me know that you’re back safe and sound. For those of you in the area, I’ll need you to come in and sign a travel voucher once your training is complete.

Have a great summer. Enjoy yourselves and stay safe. See you in the fall.
Charlene Purnell, HRA
(608)785-8406
cpurnell@uwla.x.edu

2014 Fall Semester Registration

Charise Bock
UW-L University Liaison

Hi, Cadets! If you have already registered for your Fall 2014 military science class(es), you should be all set. If, however, you have not yet registered, please do it now before you “forget.” Of course, our Winona State University students will not be able to register until mid-July.

If you have difficulty with the registration process, Viterbo students need to contact the Viterbo registration office; however, Viterbo students who need day and time information on the “to be determined” class times in your catalog should contact me, not the Viterbo registration office. Winona and UW-L students should contact me for registration assistance. You can reach me at 608-785-8404 or at cbock@uwla.x.edu.

Winona State University students always need to be mindful when you register each semester that you must have 12 credits before you add your Military Science course. If you do not have 12 credits (without your MS class), you may pay significantly more for tuition, because you will not be a full-time student. This will also apply if you have 12 credits (not counting your MS class) but drop a class. You, again, will not be a full-time student. Your military science class is not counted towards your total number of credits to reach full-time student status. However, if you carry a heavy credit load including your MS course, and go over 18 credits, you will have to pay extra for any credits over 18. Winona State does count your MS credits when you go over 18 credits.

Also let me know if you are unable to log in to Blackboard or have other issues.

I hope you all have great summers, but remember that I am available in the summer to help you.
Cavalry Troopers

Mr. Joseph Gano
Contractor

Cavalry Troopers, also known as the guys with spurs in the funny hats. Those hats, by the way, are called Stetsons and they draw their roots from the black felt Campaign Hats worn by U.S. Soldiers as early as the 1840's. Any Soldier assigned to a unit designated as Cavalry is authorized to wear the Stetson. The Stetson, however, is generally reserved for wear on special occasions such as award ceremonies, special formations such as change of commands or occasions that the ASU is worn.

The ASU itself has a Cavalry history. It is modeled after the uniform worn by Cavalry Troopers during the United States expansion into the west. The different colored pants and jacket are symbolic of a time when Troopers kept their jacket rolled up on the back of their saddles and only wore them for special occasions. Over time the pants would fade at a faster rate than the jacket, which meant that when the jacket was worn during special occasions they would not match. Interestingly because General Officers did not spend time in the field, their uniforms and jackets were not faded and that is why General Officers today have pants that match the jacket.

One of the most honored Cavalry traditions is the wearing of spurs. When a new Soldier reported to a unit they were deemed as untested and had not proven that they had the requisite skills to call themselves a Cavalryman. They were issued a mount that had a shaved tail so that others would know that the mount and rider were untested and they would be given extra room when conducting drills and maneuvers. The term “shave tail” would eventually become synonymous with somebody that was new or inexperienced. An inexperienced rider using spurs could have disastrous results, so new Troopers were not given spurs until they had proven themselves as able riders. Once a Cavalryman had displayed the necessary skills they were awarded their spurs in a ceremony in front of the entire unit. The tradition still exists today and Troopers must complete a Cavalry skills competition, called a Spur Ride, in order to earn their spurs. Similar to the Expert Infantry Badge, wearing spurs is symbol that the Cavalryman is expert in their field.

Cavalry Troopers take a great amount of pride in their traditions and history. Cavalry is generally accepted as the second oldest military branch, with Infantry being the oldest. According to Cambridge University, the Cavalry can trace their roots back to the Central Asian Steppe around 2000-3000 BCE when the horse was first domesticated. The horse as an instrument of warfare was first designed to be used as mounted Infantry and operated primarily as a mobile shock force that could quickly move around the battlefield to exploit enemy weaknesses. As Cavalry tactics developed, it became apparent that their mobility and speed also made them an effective reconnaissance, surveillance and security force. Cavalry would eventually sub-divide into the two distinct categories that still exist today.

The first category is the heavily armored shock forces, which would eventually develop into the Armor Branch. These units sacrificed both speed and maneuverability for survivability. They were typically deployed at the center of enemy lines to create gaps in enemy formations that could be exploited by Commanders.

The history of armored warfare can be traced by watching the evolution of the technologies designed to defeat them. As new armor was developed, a race would ensue to create weapons that could defeat that armor and would in turn lead to the development of heavier armors. This cycle culminated with the development of the heavy plate armor worn by medieval knights in Europe. Even that protection was eventually defeated with the introduction of firearms. The use of firearms created a scenario that led to a decline for armor. The weight of the armor needed to provide adequate protection against firearms exceeded the carrying capabilities of both the rider and the horse. It wasn’t until the invention of the internal combustion engine, that a platform capable of carrying the extreme weights necessary, made armored warfare feasible again. With the onset of World War I, the English revolutionized modern warfare when it developed the predecessor of the main battle tank. The tank would become the cornerstone for modern armored forces and subsequently revived the age old armor versus anti-armor cycle.

In the exact opposite direction, Cavalry units chose to sacrifice protection in order to maintain speed and mobility. While the weapons employed by Cavalry troopers had continued to develop over time, at its core, the Cavalry remained unchanged until the end of the 19th century. The Roman Cavalry that charged against Hannibal in 218 BCE was virtually identical, in composition and in its use of tactics, to the English Cavalry that charged Napoleon’s lines at the battle of Waterloo in 1815. By remaining light and mobile, Cavalry units were able to rapidly cover large areas and provide needed intelligence to battle field commanders. Even though direct combat has never been a primary role for the Cavalry, it always maintained the ability to fight and has often been used in a security or a reserve role after the reconnaissance battle has been fought.

Today’s Cavalry units have many things in common with its predecessors; they are light and highly mobile forces which are designed to operate independently in enemy territory. The Cavalry is designed to gain detailed information about; routes, terrain, resources, infrastructure, societal information and enemy forces. They are the eyes and ears of the Commander and provide real-time intelligence,
acquisition. Modern Cavalry units are as diverse as the units that they support; there are light, motorized, mechanized and even aviation units that hold Cavalry designations. One thing, however, is true of all Cavalry troopers regardless of their unit designation, they are proud of the Calvary’s rich heritage and they display it proudly, as evidenced by the funny hats and spurs.


Mr. Gano is 2LT Gano in the Wisconsin Army National Guard

3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

Eagle Battalion Alumni Profiles

Colonel Scott J. Gordon

Colonel Gordon entered the Military Intelligence (MI) Corps after his commissioning through the ROTC program at the UW-La Crosse and completion of the MI Officer Basic Course as the Distinguished Honor Graduate. Col. Gordon currently serves as Commander, 2600th Military Intelligence Group in Leavenworth Kansas.

His previous command positions include Battalion Commander, 11/100th Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; MI Detachment Commander, DET 3, 2400th MI Group, Fort Snelling, Minnesota; C Company Commander, 2/84th MI Battalion, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; and A Company Commander, 2/84th MI Battalion, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

His previous staff assignments include Liaison and Intelligence Staff Officer J2E, International Joint Command (IJC), Afghanistan; Senior Intelligence Director, HQ EU-COM J2, Stuttgart, Germany; Battalion Executive Officer 2/84th MI Battalion (Mobilize, Train, Deploy), Fort Huachuca, Arizona; S3 Operations Officer, 2/84th MI Battalion, Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; Senior Military Intelligence Analyst, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Washington, DC; and Regional Intelligence Analyst (Africa), HQ EU-COM J2, Stuttgart, Germany.

Colonel Gordon earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Social Studies/Secondary Education with a minor in political science from the University UW-La Crosse. He holds a Master of Arts degree in American History (James Madison Memorial Fellowship) from Concordia University and a Master of Science degree in Secondary Education/School Administration from the UW-Platteville. His military education includes the Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course, Military Intelligence Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School (CAS3), and the Command and General Staff College (CGSC).

His awards include the 3 x Meritorious Service Medal, 2 x Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, 3 x Army Achievement Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Currently, Colonel Gordon teaches high school Advanced Placement U.S. History and Government in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. He is married to Cindy (Rodenberg) and they have three children.
Eagle Battalion Alumni Profiles (continued)

LTC Rochell Maier

Lieutenant Colonel Rochell Maier is currently serving as the Recruiting and Retention Battalion (RRB) Commander where she works full-time for the Wisconsin Army National Guard. LTC Maier’s battalion consists of 138 full-time Recruiting and Retention NCOs throughout the state and 10 Officers serving on the battalion staff. On drill weekends, the battalion runs 6 RSP Companies with over 1,000 newly assigned recruits preparing them for Basic and Initial Entry Training. Prior to taking command of the RRB, she stood up the CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) Battalion. The CERFP responds and assists local, state, and federal agencies in conducting consequence management during natural or manmade disasters by providing mass casualty decontamination, emergency medical services, casualty search and extraction, and fatality search and recovery. Currently, there are only 17 CERFP battalions nationwide.

LTC Maier grew up in Roxbury, WI where she graduated from Sauk Prairie high school and received her Bachelor of Science degree from the UW-La Crosse. She received her Army commission in 1984 through ROTC and her military education includes the Aviation Officer Basic Course, Aviation Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Staff Services School, and the Intermediate Leadership Education course.

During her career, LTC Maier served in various positions in both the Reserves in Alabama and California and in the Minnesota and Wisconsin National Guard. She started her career in numerous PL positions in the 33rd Aviation Group, Fort Rucker, AL and the 1/214th Aviation Regiment, Los Alamitos, CA. She commanded the HHC, 168th Aviation Group in Garden Grove, CA, served as the Intelligence Officer with HHC, 2-147th Aviation Battalion, and as the EO Advisor with the 2-147th Aviation Brigade in Saint Paul, MN. Since 9/11, LTC Maier has deployed overseas three times with her first tour in support of Operation Noble Eagle as the Aviation Task Force Executive Officer and UH-60 pilot at Camp Doha, Kuwait. Her second and third tours were in support for Operation Iraqi Freedom as the HHC, 1-147th Aviation Battalion Administration Officer and UH-60 pilot based at Camp Udari, Kuwait and for TAC VI, OSACOM as the Safety Officer and C23 pilot based at Camp Balad, Iraq. LTC Maier has over 3000 hours in both military helicopter and fixed wing aircraft and has flown the TH-55 helicopter, UH-1 Huey helicopter, UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter, C26 Metro Liner airplane, and C23 Sherpa airplane during her military career.

The military awards of LTC Maier include the Master Army Aviator Badge; the Air Assault Badge; the Bronze Star Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal (2), the Army Air Medal (2); the Army Commendation Medal (5); the Army Achievement Medal; the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (5); the National Defense Service Medal (2); the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (2); the Iraq Campaign Medal (2); the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Service Medal; the Humanitarian Medal; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (2) with Silver Hourglass and "M" device; the Army Service Ribbon; the Overseas Service Ribbon (2); the Army Components Overseas Training Ribbon (6); the State of WI Service Ribbon; the State of MN Meritorious Medal; the State of MN Active Duty Ribbon (2); and the State of MN Service Ribbon.

LTC (Ret.) Daniel J. Zimmerman

Daniel J. Zimmerman, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired), is a career Army Intelligence officer and former Combat Engineer soldier. Hailing from New Berlin, Wisconsin, he spent his 25 year military career serving in various command and staff positions in support of the tactical Army both stateside and overseas in Honduras, Germany, Iraq and Kosovo. His experience also includes numerous training-related assignments at three of the Army’s premier combat training centers. His most recent deployment in 2006-2007 involved service as Director of Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff for the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team in Baghdad, Iraq, where the 1000-person unit was responsible for training all Iraqi police, border, and customs forces as well as rebuilding the fundamental rule of law structure throughout Iraq forces as well as rebuilding the fundamental rule of law structure throughout Iraq. Formerly the Director of the ROTC programs at both Marian University and Ripon College in central Wisconsin most recently the Director of Homeland Security Programs at Marian University, now and he serves as a training consultant to the Army National Guard in areas of leadership, security, and anti-terrorism as well as intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations and defense support to civil authorities in disaster relief situations.

He is very engaged civically, serving as a member of Ripon’s Board of Education and Chairman Big Hills
Eagle Battalion Alumni (continued)

of Lake Management District – both at large elected offices. Additionally, he serves as Founding President of a tax exempt education foundation and actively promotes expanding military veteran educational opportunities at local universities, colleges, and technical schools. He is also the former Chief Operating Officer of a non-partisan tax exempt think tank devoted to promoting the virtues and values of America’s founding principles both state- and nation-wide.

He holds a Master of Arts degree in Homeland Security specializing in Intelligence operations and a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography with a Political Science emphasis as well as basic and advanced certifications in Leadership and Military Intelligence operations. He is currently completing a second graduate degree, a Master of Science in Education in School Business Management. When not traveling nationally for the Defense Department, he is engaged in the national homeland security education community, he consults for Wisconsin Emergency Management on natural, human-caused, and technological threats and hazards facing Wisconsin, and also guest lectures at the university level focusing primarily on homeland security, terrorism, intelligence, military, and related political issues.

LTC Zimmerman is a decorated combat veteran, having received two Bronze Star Medals, five Meritorious Service Medals, and numerous other Army, NATO, and foreign medals and awards, as well as a seasoned university-level educator and recognized academic scholar, having graduated top in his class for both his university and military schooling.

He is married with four children and resides in Ripon, WI.

Eagle Battalion-2nd Annual Alumni Reunion

LTC James R. Hill  
Eagle Battalion Commander

This year Eagle Battalion will hold its 2nd Annual Alumni Reunion on Saturday, 08 November. Based on feedback from the reunion last year, Veteran’s Day weekend is a better time for alumni to return to UW-L to participate in this type of event.

This day will work well for many reasons. UW-L has an ever growing list of events for Veterans Day Weekend. This year Eagle Battalion is going to add to that list and is developing plans to hold a 5K Veterans Day Run/Walk from 0800-1000 on Saturday, 08NOV. It will be run on UW-L campus property and tentative plans are for proceeds to go to both the Cadet Unit Fund and the charity Snowball Express, which supports the children of veterans killed while deployed. The details of this event are currently being developed and a follow-on email message will be sent out soon with more details.

In addition to this run, Eagle Battalion will hold a tailgate event for the UW-L home football game against UW-Platteville. The tailgate will run from 1000-1300 (just after the run), and the game will begin at 1300 and last until about 1600.

In addition, on Sunday, 09NOV from UW-L, and the Freedom Honor Flight organization are working tentative plans to hold the Third Annual Veterans Day Breakfast at UW-L’s Mitchell Center. For those that have not attended in the past, this event continues to have a large attendance and is very well received. Many veterans from all services attend this breakfast and enjoy a great meal, esprit de corps, and a nice speech.

In addition to the great events that are being developed for this weekend, I am also shaping the Eagle Battalion events on Saturday as an opportunity for Eagle Battalion Cadets to speak with Eagle Battalion alumni. This provides Cadets with an opportunity to speak with former Cadets about their experiences in the Army and that is invaluable dialogue that Cadets need to hear. Many Cadets have ambitions about selecting a particular branch during the accessions process, and alumni dialogue with them can help shape their future Army career choices.
Eagle Battalion Cadet Leadership-Fall 2014

BN CDR: Ms. Sopkowiak
BN XO: Ms. Krueger
BN CSM: Mr. Herman
BN S1: Mr. Johansen
BN S2: Mr. Colson
BN S3: Mr. Hatch
BN S4: Mr. Jennings
BN S4 Assistant: Mr. Mrdjenovich
BN S5: Mr. Gust
A Co CDR: Mr. Maloney
B Co CDR: Mr. Sowieja

Important Dates for the Fall

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>MS IV Cadet Staff Planning Workshop</td>
<td>Friday-Saturday, 22-23AUG</td>
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<tr>
<td>MVIII Cadet Staff Planning Workshop</td>
<td>Saturday-Sunday, 23-24AUG</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Student/Parent Orientation</td>
<td>Saturday, 30AUG</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROTC Orientation and Ropes Course at UW-L</td>
<td>Saturday, 06SEP</td>
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<td>MSIV Staff Ride (Virtual-Wanat, Afghanistan)</td>
<td>Saturday, 13SEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX)-Fort McCoy</td>
<td>Friday-Sunday, 26-28SEP</td>
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<td>Task Force Ranger Challenge</td>
<td>Friday-Sunday, 10-12OCT</td>
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<td>Brigade Ranger Challenge</td>
<td>Friday-Sunday, 24-26OCT</td>
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<td>BN Squad/Platoon Training Exercise</td>
<td>Thursday, 06NOV</td>
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<td>Company Awards Ceremony</td>
<td>Tuesday, 18NOV (B CO), Thursday, 20NOV (A CO)</td>
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<td>Dining- In</td>
<td>Friday, 21NOV</td>
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<td>BN CWST/Change of Command/Change of Responsibility</td>
<td>Tuesday, 25NOV</td>
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<td>Commissioning Ceremony</td>
<td>Saturday, 13DEC</td>
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Don’t forget to catch the latest updates and news within the Eagle Battalion! Please visit our UW-L Eagle Battalion website at [http://www.uwlax.edu/rotc](http://www.uwlax.edu/rotc).

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