

**FOX VALLEY
BATTALION**

UW Oshkosh, Military
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Oshkosh, WI 54903

Fox Valley Battalion Newsletter

Volume II, Issue 2

May 15th, 2009



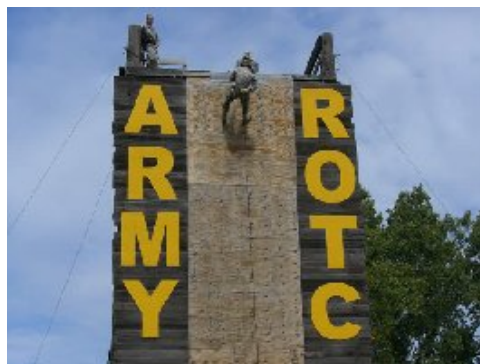
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Welcome to the Fox Valley Battalion Newsletter

Hello alumni, friends and families of the ROTC cadets enrolled in the Fox Valley Battalion (FVB). The FVB is comprised of three cadet companies spanning six college campuses: Green Knight Company (St. Norbert College/University of Wisconsin Green Bay), Redhawk Company (Ripon College) and Titan Company (UW Oshkosh/Marian University). Geographical distance between the schools means that each company conducts a lot of separate training, but a few times a semester we all come together and execute some very intensive battalion training. This newsletter explains much of what the cadets have been doing throughout the semester to prepare for their Army careers.

There will be a few testimonials from individuals who have attended specialty training around the country. Also, social events are show what we build camaraderie among ourselves. It is believe that in a few weeks the MSIII's heading off to the Leader Assessment at Fort



ton. It is what they have been preparing themselves for during the last three years and now it is time to execute and make all of us proud.

CDT Voss
Battalion Commander



2LT Gold Bar: The goal of cadets in the ROTC program.

UW Oshkosh Dining Out by CDT Dewey

The Titan Company Spring Dining Out occurred at the American Legion Club in Fond du Lac on March 13th, 2009. Titan Company had Shelly Lancaster a former Air Force soldier who is working on her doctoral degree, and is a professor in UW Oshkosh's Nursing Department as the guest speaker. The

food was wonderful and so was the American Legion Club. Cadet Swanson had a video about the Battalion Fall FTX and Cadet Kiel sang the National Anthem. Awards were handed out to cadets for GPA, German Armed Forces Badge training, and PT.



Mini STX From a Ripon Perspective—CDT Frey

On Saturday March 28th the battalion got together for a situational training exercise (Mini STX Day). Throughout the day, we did a total of four patrolling lanes. We were separated into different squads made up of cadets from all three companies. This was a great opportunity for us to get to know other people from different companies in the battalion. We separated and started the day. Each patrolling lane took about an hour and a half to 2 hours with the squad leader changing for each lane. Squad Leaders would split us up into Alpha Team and Bravo Team. We then pulled security while they were receiving the Operation's Order (OPORD) from higher headquarters and issuing the plan to Team Leaders. Then, we started rehearsals. My team was usually the primary aid and litter team, so that's what we rehearsed. We then conducted the mission. Each lane was a different scenario. We would then conduct an After Action Review



(AAR) and move on to the next lane.

I think the day went very well. It taught me a lot about the things we need to work on individually and as a squad. This day was very important, and I am so glad that I attended. This will help me in my future to know what to do and how to work with different people in different situations.

Here is a list of all the GAFFB medal winners.

Redhawk

Jeff Davis - Gold
Morgan Flom - Gold
Avery Johnson - Gold
Brandon Kasabuski - Gold
Matthew Thomassen - Silver

Titan

Zach Holm - Silver
SFC Vincent - Silver

Green Knight

Art Bell - Silver
Austin McGuine - Bronze
Shane Murray - Bronze
Dan Ward - Silver
Chris Zaczyk - Gold



German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge - Green Knight Company

It is 0600 and the cadets from the Green Knight Company have already finished a 400-meter run, high jump, shot put and a 5-kilometer run. CDT Bell (MSII), CDT Murray (MSII), CDT, McGuine (MSI), CDT Ward (MSIV), and CDT Zaczyk (MSIII) were the participants for the Green Knights in this year's German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFFB) competition. The training for the badge started in early December with more than ten cadets. During the three months of training, the numbers dwindled down to these five cadets. They were trained by CDT Voss, CDT Raith, and CDT Kaczmarek who all earned the gold badge the year before. The training took place twice a week at 0530 and included 400-meter sprints and field events at least once a week, as well as, three trips to the pool. Each cadet did a 20 Kilometer (12.4 miles) road march also. They trained so that they were able to pass every event. All five were selected to go to Indiana and participate in the event. The five of them were able to pass the swim with minutes to spare. When it came to the 5 kilometer run, CDT Bell and CDT Murray displayed excellent time management skills and came in right at 23 minutes just passing. All five cadets qualified during the shooting event in very poor weather conditions. CDT McGuine and CDT Murray hit the target three times allowing them to go for the bronze medal, CDT Bell and CDT Ward had four hits to keep them in the hunt for the silver, and CDT Zaczyk hit all five allowing him to go for gold. During the field events CDT McGuine and CDT Ward failed the shot put, but were able to pass the shot put throw. All five passed the 400-meter sprint. When it came to the high jump, CDT Bell, CDT Murray, and CDT Zaczyk all struggled. CDT Murray was able to pass by doing the alternate event of long jump and CDT Bell and CDT Zaczyk eventually passed the high jump after a few extra tries. CDT Ward was able to pass the high jump event even though he missed the mark in the event one year before; CDT McGuine was also successful at this event. For the final event, the road march, the Green Knights were all still hopeful to earn a medal. CDT McGuine and CDT Murray were able to pass the 20 Kilometer with ample amount of time. CDT Bell and CDT Ward passed the 25 Kilometer (15.5 miles) with more than 40 minutes to spare. CDT Zaczyk was able to pass the 30 Kilometer (18.6 mile) with an hour to spare. During the event all of the cadets were helped from the instructors who gave them advice, drinks and power bars during the competition. In all, the Green Knight Company sent five cadets and all five brought back a medal- two bronze, two silver, and one gold. With this success, these five set new standards for the rest of the company. They will be back next year leading new Green Knight cadets to a medal.

CDT Bell

What Right Looks Like - Green Knight Company Dining Out

The Green Knight Company held their annual Dining Out on March 6th 2009. The evening ran smoothly due to the effort put forth by the MS III's and MSIV's. It was nice to see everyone in their Class-A Uniforms, especially for the friends and family that came to support the event. After the receiving line, the Official Party took their seats. While the talented Miss Jessie Smith sang the National Anthem, Cadet Brian Kuehl led the Color

Guard composed of all of the members of first squad. After the Color Guard, the Pastor of St. Norbert College, Father Jim Baraniak led the invocation. Then, Cadet Raith explained the significance of the Fallen Soldier Table, put together by all of the members of third squad. St. Norbert College catered dinner and the food was delicious. After dinner, Cadet Chris Zaczyk introduced the Green Knight Company slideshow put together by the members of 2nd Squad. Immediately after the slideshow, our guest speaker, Colonel Sliwa addressed the audience. He expressed that it was an honor to come speak at such an event. Colonel Sliwa mentioned how refreshing



in the United States Army. After dinner, Cadet Chris Zaczyk introduced the Green Knight Company slideshow put together by the members of 2nd Squad. Immediately after the slideshow, our guest speaker, Colonel Sliwa addressed the audience. He expressed that it was an honor to come speak at such an event. Colonel Sliwa mentioned how refreshing

it was to see such a strong family atmosphere here among the cadets and cadre. Lastly, Colonel Sliwa was so pleased at how well run the evening was that he said, "This is what right looks like!"

After Colonel Sliwa's speech, Cadet Voss presented him with several keepsakes on behalf of the Green Knight Company. The first gifts were St. Norbert College and University of Wisconsin Green Bay beer mugs. The second

souvenir was a plaque containing Vince Lombardi's "Win" speech. Last, but certainly not least, Cadet Hansinger presented Colonel Sliwa with a cheesehead signed by each cadet in the company. After the gifts, first squad retired the colors and Father Jim gave the benediction. Overall, it was a great opportunity to meet each other's families and honor our commitment as future officers



"This is what right looks like!"

CDT Cirka

"The Mountain Experience" By CDT Johnson

The Army Mountain Warfare School is located in Jericho, VT. It is designed to improve Soldiers' knowledge of mountain environments, teach Soldiers to think about the effects of mountainous environments on Soldiers and operations, and to instruct soldiers in techniques used in operating in a mountainous environment. The school encourages students to transfer the knowledge they

have gained through AMWS instruction to their units and apply it to their unit's training. Much of current U.S. military operations occur in mountainous areas, specifically Afghanistan, against adversaries who are well acclimated to mountainous terrain and are well prepared for mountain warfare. Therefore, knowing how to operate in mountainous environments is important for to-

day's Army. The AMWS has two sections, summer and winter, and each section is a two week block of intensive training. Students at AMWS train for fourteen days straight, twelve hours a day. The beginning of the two week training period focuses on classroom instruction. The later part of the period focuses on applying the classroom instruction to the field. A two day FTX in the Green Mountain Range com-



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Go Army!

pletes the two week covers subjects such environmental injuries and tain terrain and ment, mountain travel ment, altimeter land fects on weapons, ous environments, tain bivouac opera- Instruction also fo rope systems for climbing, rappelling, hauling, high ropes, and casualty evacuation. The AMWS instructors are extremely knowledgeable and skilled. They want students to gain knowledge so that they are able to benefit their units by applying what they have learned. Short uphill movements (approximately 1 hour) take place almost daily en route to various training sites. During the two day FTX, students march to the base of Smuggler’s Notch with full rucksacks hauling tents in Ahkio sleds. This is the most physically demanding movement of the two weeks. During the FTX, students establish a bivouac site at the base of the mountain. They spend the night in tents and scale the mountain the next day. The mountain walk is considered the pinnacle of the training period and is usually the most enjoyable day for students. It involves an ascension of nearly 4000 ft. (the majority of the terrain being nearly vertical), glissading (sliding down a snowy or icy slope in the standing or seated position), a 300 ft. rappel, as well as stunning scenery.



period. AMWS instruction as cold weather clothing, envi- illness, characteristics of moun- weather, Soldier load manage- techniques, water procure- navigation, environmental ef- communications in mountain- confined space clearing, moun- tions, and mountain operations. cuses heavily on knot tying and

Cadets With Training This Summer

MSIIs - Warrior Forge

Green Knight:

- Brian Kuehl
- Kevin Kaczmarek
- Jarod Huebner
- Chris Zaczyk
- Justin Pierce
- Eric Van Hout
- Joel Diny
- Nathan Raith

Redhawk:

- Jeffrey Davis
- Matthew Thomassen
- Zach Lyon
- Joe Reese

Titan:

- Troy Lawson
- Stephanie Kiel
- Andrea Jurgilanis
- Samantha Venard
- Darla Wiegand



Cadets - Military Schools

Air Assault:

- Brenda Bellanger
- Eric Van Hout
- Cody Anderson
- Ryan Groff

Airborne:

- John McCluskey
- Claire Michaels
- Shane Murray

CULP (Slovakia)

- Avery Johnson

West Point:

- Shane Murray

CTLT/DCLT:

- Zach Holm
- Chris Zaczyk

Nurse Summer Training:

- Darla Wiegand
- Andrea Jurgilanis

APFT Honorable Mentions

The APFT or Army Physical Fitness Test measures the strength of three main body muscle groups; the chest/shoulder/tricep region is measured by how many pushups the cadet is able to perform in a two minute period. The same amount of time is given for the cadet to do as many situps as possible, measuring the core abdominal strength, and the cadet must complete the two mile run as quickly as they can which measures leg and cardiovascular strength. The cadet is able to earn up to 100 points in each event and the scale is altered for the persons age and gender.

300 Club

Titan
CDT Holm CDT Hofer
CDT Lawson CDT Kiel
CDT Venard

Green Knight

CDT Van Hout
CDT Michaels
CDT Ward

Redhawk

CDT Davis
CDT Johnson

First In, Last Out: AIR ASSAULT!

By CDT Raith

As I'm ushered through the arches that lead into the Sabalauski Air Assault School at Ft. Campbell, KY – my home for the next three weeks – I am greeted by screaming NCOs every fifteen or so meters. Every time I reach one, I am forced down to the wet, stinky gravel to do pushups at their mercy. "Get up Air Assault!" I hear as I rush across the school grounds to get to the formation area. But soon another NCO stops me; "do push-ups Air Assault!" Its wet, its cold, and I begin to think that I signed on the wrong dotted line. This is zero-day of the 10 ½ day Army Air Assault School. This image sticks out most in my mind from the experience last January. Out of everything I learned and accomplished, all the excellent training I received, the opportunity to train in a run-only environment next to Rangers, Special Forces Soldiers, Airmen, and Soldiers of the 101st is something I will never forget.

I've heard that Army Air Assault training is the "toughest ten days in the Army". I don't believe all that jazz but it definitely was no walk in the park. The course is designed to be physically demanding and focuses on a terminal attention to detail, dismissing a student for not having their canteen filled to the very brim. Most of zero-day was spent in the front leaning rest position or parade rest in rain and next to freezing temperatures. After the obstacle course and two-mile run, nearly fifty members of class 04-09 were on their way home. The remainder of that evening was spent explaining the rules and customs of the course and grounds. "Yes Air Assault Sergeant!" "No Air Assault Sergeant!" And the constant resonance of "Air Assault" every time a student's left foot struck the gravel on school grounds.

Day one began with a 10k road march at 0400 hrs. No one failed the march, but the rucksack inspection that followed spit out another twenty or so students. An ID card not displayed properly - ten demerits, a missing sock-twenty demerits. Once you reached forty demerits, you got an early plane ticket home. Day One also included the beginnings of phase one, which includes: rotary winged aircraft familiarization, aircraft safety, aeromedical evacuation procedures, Pathfinder operations, hand and arm signals, combat assault, and close combat attack.

The training week consisted of classroom and outdoor instruction and hands-on exercises laced with hours of discipli-

nary PT for "not being motivated Air Assault" or being "too slow Air Assault". Week one and phase one culminated on day three with a written exam and a practical on hand and arm signals.

With start of week two was the beginning of phase two: helicopter external load operations or slingloads. During this phase we learned how to rig, inspect, and hook-up cargo nets, the A-22 cargo bag, the M1097 HMMVV cargo truck, 500 gallon fuel blivets, and the M149 "Water Buffalo" water trailer. There was some classroom instruction but most training was hands-on. On day six, at the end of

phase two, there was again a written exam and a hands-on inspection of four slingloads where we had to identify three out of four deficiencies for each.

Two phases down, one to go. The last week of Air Assault School focused on rappelling. There was no classroom instruction, only brief training on rappel seat tying, hook up procedure, and proper rappel technique. Otherwise, we were on the forty-foot tower putting our training into practice. I wore my rappel seat for far longer than I would ever choose to that week. On day nine, we were tested one last time. There was no written test. We were required to tie our rappel seat in less than ninety seconds, hook up to a static rope in less than fifteen seconds, and conduct a lock-in rappel, a Hollywood rappel, and a combat equipment rappel. After the tests, we were briefly introduced to F.R.I.E.S (fast rope insertion, extraction system) training and were allowed to fast-rope off the forty-foot tower. Fast-roping is very exciting because you are not locked in and if you let go of the rope, gravity takes control.

Day ten began at 0400 with a 20k road march followed by an equipment inspection just like on day one. We were released to get changed into a presentable uniform and then met back on the school grounds for graduation. The ceremony was short and sweet, maybe ten minutes, but there were probably close to 500 people as many a graduate's entire unit and/or family showed up. Our wings were pinned to our chest and then we were smoked one last time by the First Sergeant for not singing the 101st Division Song to standard.

I had done it. The three-week ordeal was over, and I proudly sported a set of wings on my uniform. I felt a real sense of accomplishment. The training I received was invaluable but the experience was priceless.



Ripon ROTC Military Ball

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ARMY VALUES

Loyalty

Duty

Respect

Selfless Service

Honor

Integrity

Personal Courage

From black shiny shoes to gold buttons, ribbons to ROTC emblems, the Ripon Red Hawk cadets dressed in their finest dress green attire. The purpose—to participate in a military ball celebrating 90 years of Reserve Officers Training Corps at Ripon College. On the evening of the 6th of March, Army cadets, their marvelously dressed dates, parents, some faculty, and honored alums commemorated this special event with toasts, great food, a reputable guest speaker, a saber arch acknowledging senior cadets, and a dance. The ball, held in the Great Hall of the Ripon College campus brought together the cadets, their parents, and their dates. The invitation of parents and the cadets' dates created cohesion in the structure of the ROTC. It brought about awareness on campus, so students understand the type of commitment and responsibility the cadets possess. It also gave parents the opportunity to understand what their child is doing not only on a weekly basis, but also show them what their child is being prepared for after college, and life in Army service. The college president, his wife, and other faculty attended; as they too helped make Ripon College the thriving school that teaches cadets how to work hard and be responsible. Alumni attended the ball as well; not only did they get to be apart of Ripon College once more, but were able to see the transformation of ROTC at Ripon and examine the changes from when they were last in school or even in the program. The ball was no easy task as most of the cadets put in countless hours prepping for the night. Everything from putting out invitations, decorations, finding a DJ and guest speaker, making calls establishing reservations, and a play-by-play script of the evening was solely a cadet led event. While the cadre were present to oversee the occasion, cadets got a feel for what it's like to experience what it means to be a leader and plan for such a spectacle.

Overall, the ball, with around 100 attendees, was a time to celebrate a tremendous accomplishment in the history of Ripon College. We can only hope that in years to come, the event will become more popular for the college and further recognize the outstanding performance of the cadets and the importance of ROTC.

CDT Flom



Spring FTX

by CDT Swanson

The month of April marks a busy month on the ROTC calendar as members of the Fox Valley Battalion merge upon Fort McCoy for two weekends of training. From 17 to 19 April, the Fox Valley Battalion conducted the Spring Battalion Field Training Exercise (BN FTX). For the first time, MS I and II cadets were incorporated into the training, gaining valuable experience that will prepare them for their future in the program. For the MS III cadets, it provided further preparation for the summer Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis Washington; for the MSIV Cadets it marked the end to an era.

The training began Friday night as the Fox Valley Battalion conducted a loud and thunderous battalion run. Battalion runs are a favored military tradition of gathering the battalion together in formation by companies and running a certain distance together. The run builds unit cohesion and esprit de corps through the calling of motivating running cadence and bearing the battalion and company colors. After the run, MS I and II cadets received



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classroom instruction from the MS IV cadets on patrolling operations and patrol leadership roles, a major training event at LDAC. The classroom instruction provided further understanding and preparation for the next day's patrolling training. Saturday, 18 April, the Fox Valley Battalion arose to a wonderful 0400 wake up call. After personal hygiene, barracks maintenance, and chow, the battalion moved to the patrolling training site on the South Post of Fort McCoy.

The battalion was separated into two equal patrols and would execute two separate lanes. Each lane required the designated Patrol Leader (PL), an MS III cadet, to receive the mission for that lane, disseminate that mission to his or her Squad Leaders, also MS III cadets, who in turn disseminated the PLs mission to their squad members (MSIs, MSIIIs, and MSIIIs). The patrol then prepares for the mission by conducting rehearsals, pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections. Once the patrol crossed the Line of Departure (LD) the execution of the mission began. The missions were set up and run by the MSIV cadets, and each lane presented unique challenges and scenarios. The patrols came across wounded Media Teams, Civilian Militia and numerous Wagner Task Force (WTF) enemies while accomplishing their missions. Nearly every scenario concluded with a WTF ambush, a raid on a WTF outpost, or an ambush in a local city. Upon completion of each mission an After Action Review (AAR) was conducted to identify sustains and improves from the mission which further enhanced the learning experience.

After the sun went down, cadets went out and conducted Night Land Navigation at Compass Course 1B, a challenging and gruesome test of Land Navigation skills. Cadets battled the dark, the rain, numerous "mountains" and topographic challenges, cut themselves on nearly every turn by running into a briar bush, and located points using the Land Navigation skills they have been learning in the ROTC Program.

Sunday, the final training day of the event, began with another 0dark30 wakeup call (really early). Cadets then moved to the rifle range to zero their weapons and prepare for qualification. Cadets executed rifle qualification with the M16A2 rifle and then had the joy of cleaning those weapons upon completion of the event. Just as the rain began to fall, the Fox Valley Battalion conducted its final formation. Several cadets received battalion coins for their exemplary efforts and high motivation during the week. CDT Reese scored a perfect 5 for 5 on the Night Land Navigation Course and CDT Anderson shot an impressive 38 out of 40 on the rifle qualification range.

The Spring BN FTX marked the culmination of the battalion's hard work, dedication, and team work over the course of the last year. The MS Is and MSIIIs can look forward to their future in the program, the MS IIIs are able to execute in confidence and high proficiency at LDAC, and the MS IVs can relish in the accomplishments of their ROTC careers. Congratulations Fox Valley Battalion, you get an overall "E!"

Commissioning Cadets

Green Knight

Betsy Arndt
Casey Janke
Daniel Ward
Casey Voss

Winter Commissionee

Tim Glapa

Titan

Nathan Wilhelms
Brad Nevers
Adam Salm
Joseph Vozar
Joseph Ross

Redhawk

Morgan Flom
Cameron Arndt
Joshua Frey
Gregory George
Andrew McKee
Tyler Rosenecker

Winter Commissionee

Amanda Beers