

Fox Valley Battalion Newsletter



Welcome to the Fox Valley Battalion

It sure has been an exciting year here at ROTC. The Fox Valley Battalion has been busy training future Lieutenants in the United States Army. All five schools, University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, Saint Norbert College, Ripon College, University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, and Marian University, have all been hard at work. We started with a fun Organization Day and worked hard all the way to arguably the most enjoyable event, the Dining-In. The MS IIIs are looking good this year, working hard and trying to meet the standard that last year’s MS IIIs (this year’s MS IVs) have set.

This last summer the Fox Valley Battalion did an outstanding job at Warrior Forge 2008, with three “Excellent” assessments, four Recondo Badges, and a great APFT performance score. The bar has been set high for this year’s IIIs. Knowing the bar has been set high, the MS IIIs have been giving it their all! With less than 1% of all the people in this country serving in the military, it’s truly a special thing to see these cadets voluntarily come into the program and work so hard at being the best leaders they can be.

In 18 short months, some of these cadets will be leading troops all over the world in various capacities, whether it be in the bitter cold winds at Fort Drum, NY or the blazing hot sands of Iraq and Afghanistan. This next semester, however, is their first priority. This is the last semester for them before they head off to Warrior Forge 2009. Warrior Forge is a 4 week long assessment course in the beautiful state of Washington, at Fort Lewis. It will be a challenging and memorable experience for them, and one they certainly will have fond memories of as they progress in their careers in the Army. Keep supporting them and our troops overseas!

Hooah, Fox Valley Battalion, Hooah!

CDT Nevers

Inside this issue:

Organization Day	1
RHC Ranger Challenge	2
UWO Ranger Challenge	2
GKC Ranger Challenge	3
Commanders Corner	3
Dining-In	3
Fall FTX	4

Organizational Day: Good Fun Competition

By: Cadet Rachel Roehrig

Fox Valley ROTC Battalion held its annual Organizational (Org) Day on 20 September 2008 at the UW-Oshkosh campus. Org Day is a fun and challenging day for the cadets in ROTC. This year, the MS IV class, which organized the event, planned fun festivities along with good hard training and courage building events. The events included a round robin of rappelling off a 20 ft and 40 ft tower, a grenade assault course, and firing of M16 rifles. These events, although fun, were challenging for



some cadets. With cheers and ‘Hooahs’ from fellow cadets and support from the Cadre, these cadets built up the courage to execute the tasks of the day. The hardest event, and the one that demanded the most courage, was the rappel tower. There were many new cadets this year that took on these challenges with stride and confidence. Each cadet was able to accurately execute the rappel towers, and some even went more than once down each tower.

After the round robin, cadets were able to take a break, and enjoy some good cooking by the MS IV and Completion Cadets. After lunch, it was time for competition between the three companies and the cadet battalion staff. As always, the companies of Fox Valley Battalion, which include Titan Company (UW-Oshkosh/Marian University), Redhawk Company (Ripon College), and Green Knight Company (St. Norbert College/UW-Green Bay), like to compete with each other and this was their chance. The game was ultimate football. The different companies along with the MS IV battalion staff competed against each other to determine the winner. The winner of the competition received the Commander’s Cup, which was started by the previous MS IV class (who com-

-Continued on page 2-

Fun Cadet Fact...

All the MSIVs in the Battalion received one of their top three choices for Branch!

Ranger Challenge: Where the Tough Become Tougher!

By: Cadet Brandon Kasubaski

This year Ripon College sent a 5 person team to the annual Ranger Challenge event held at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. It was held from the 10th to the 12th of October. The team, which was led by Gregory George, included: Cameron Arndt, Morgan Flom, Josh Chandler, and Brandon Kasubaski. The team's alternate was Joe Reese. The Ranger Challenge event is the ROTC's one varsity sport. This Ranger Challenge competition mimics the Army's Best Ranger Competition. The events performed are made to test a cadet's physical and mental endurance. After arrival Friday night, the first competition held was a night land navigation test. The cadets were asked to locate points on a map at night using a compass, protractor, flashlight, and a pace count. The next day began at 0500 with a Army Physical Fitness Test or APFT. This test includes performing two minutes of push ups and sit ups and it is concluded with a two mile run. They then moved to the Conditioning Course, a timed event that consisted of crawling under, jumping over, and climbing

over obstacles. What came after was a mix of miscellaneous events. They included: litter carry, clearing a room, a weapons disassembly and reassembly event, a one rope bridge crossing, first aid, vehicle pull, and the Sergeant Major's Challenge. The final event of the weekend was a 10 kilometer or 6.2 mile forced Foot march. This event tested the endurance and cohesiveness of the team. Overall, Ripon placed 6th out of 14 total 5 man teams.



-Continued from page 1-

missioned in 2008). The current holder of the cup was Titan Company who had won it from the 2007 Org Day competition. To determine the winner, because of a tie, they had a race between the two teams. This year's competition came down between Green Knight Company and Redhawk Company. The race included five cadets from each team that had to carry a full jug of water for a marked distance to a point and back to the start. In the end, Green Knight Company won the Commander's Cup. This was the first event as well, for the MS IV class to plan and execute, and it was a good experience for them. Org Day was a success for all participants involved. It was a good first chance to have cadets see what ROTC is about, as well as, promoting good communication and motivation for all cadets involved. Now, the new challenge is to see if Green Knight Company can hold on to the Commander's Cup trophy at the next Organizational Day.

Ranger Challenge - Memories for a Lifetime

By: Cadet Troy Lawson

On the weekend of October 10th through the 12th Cadets Lawson, Holm, Kiel, Venard, Hofer, Rodriguez, Christianson, Albright, Salm, and Groff traveled to Fort McCoy to participate in the Ranger Challenge. The team competed against 14 teams from the different schools within the Brigade. On Friday night we competed in the first event, which was night land navigation. We had to find various points on the course in order to gain points for our team. The team with the most points won this event. The next morning we woke up at 0430 and completed the Army Physical Fitness Test. Almost everyone on our team set personal records in their events. Congrats to Cadet Vernard, who did the most push ups for any female there and also broke her personal record. The next event

was the obstacle course which consisted of many different obstacles. The team pushed themselves to complete the timed event and showed what great teamwork they had. Next we traveled to the starting point of the day land navigation course. We had to find various points which led us to the locations of the 4 remaining Ranger Challenge events. Each event was 2-3 miles from the start point. Once the team found the location, the event was complete. The first event we found and completed was evaluating a casualty. After this we had to work as a team to pull a HMMWV (Humvee) 150 meters. The second event we had to complete was the one rope bridge; we were only given 15 minutes. You had to cross a 150 ft. gap over a river using only one rope. Each member of your

team had to successfully make it across. The third event we located was the international link up. This was where we cleared a room and secured a cache of M16s. Then we had to clear, disassemble, reassemble, and perform a function check on all the weapons. This event was timed to see which team could go the fastest without making mistakes. The fourth event for the day was the litter carry. As a team we had to carry the litter that weighed roughly 200 lbs while we pulled security. During the Grenade Throw contest, Cadet Kiel threw one of the grenades right on target! After we completed all four events we had to go back to our start point. Finally, on Sunday we did a 10K road march. This march was timed and our team really pushed themselves to do our best. The weekend was a great teambuilding experience and an awesome learning experience. The knowledge and memories we gained from Ranger Challenge will last us a lifetime!

Dining-In

By: Cadet Jeffrey Davis

This year's Fox Valley Battalion ROTC Dining-In was held at Stadium View Sports Bar and Grill in Green Bay. From the perspective of this MSIII, it was the best planned, best organized, and best at motivating the cadets yet. The social hour went well as most of the of-age cadets intermingled, while the younger cadets stayed in their comfort zones in their respective company.

A hand shake says a lot about a person. Having the chance to meet Colonel Haebig, the guest speaker, in the receiving line sparked a great first impression. Luckily, the Fox Valley Battalion was able to receive such a well decorated and educated officer as a speaker. His speech was precise, to the point, and what the cadets and cadre needed to hear.

Ripon Red Hawk Company was in charge of providing a Color Guard for the evening. This was a great experience for the two of the MS Is and the one of the MS IIs that presided in the posting and retiring ceremonies.

Speaking of which, it was great to see all the MS IVs in their dress greens proudly displaying their branch insignia. Well, most of them; there were some uniform infractions. However, a trip to the grog bowl was punishment enough. The grog bowl upheld the finest military traditions. Its elements represented the facets of the Global War on Terrorism.

Finally, when given a chance to call out cadre, cadet leaders, or other cadets from the battalion, you better take it and run. The entertainment this year was above

and beyond. I was worried, with the restrictions given, that there might be some creativity trouble. Well, the battalion leadership set the policy, and boy, did it rain down on them. Implications of brown-nosing, god-like egos, and caffeine addictions brought laughter to every cadet and cadre member.

Overall, the Dining-In was a great experience to close out the semester with the entertainment, FTX recap video, and camaraderie between companies.



Ranger Challenge - A Tale of Two Teams

By: Cadet Christopher Zaczyk

The Green Knight Company Ranger Challenge Team competed again in the annual Brigade Ranger Challenge Competition held at Fort McCoy this year with a new addition to the Company Roster, an all female team. The five woman team, The Green Ladies, competed alongside the five man team, The Knight Rangers at the competition. Both teams worked very hard, both in training and at the competition, and competed with schools from different states successfully, bringing pride and two Streamers back to their company.



their gear and started their days early. The training was fast paced and physically demanding, but it paid off when the competition came around. The teams could often be seen pulling a pickup truck across a parking lot, hanging horizontally from a rope tied between two trees, or running through the campus gym with a litter on their shoulders. Even through difficult training and long hours, the teams kept high spirits and stayed mentally tough to prepare for the upcoming competition.

During the weekend of 10 Oct to 12 Oct, the two teams headed to Ft. McCoy and began their Ranger Challenge Weekend. Events like Night Land Navigation, Humvee Pull, One Rope

Bridge, and a 10K Road March challenged the teams, but they overcame the physical strain and emerged victorious in two events, the Humvee Pull and Night Land Navigation, bringing home two Guidon Streamers for their company. The male team finished fourth overall, and the females finished second out of three female teams. Both teams were happy with their performance, but have not lost their determination that next year, they can bring home a first place trophy.

Overall, Ranger Challenge brought about a year of firsts for Green Knight Company. A brand new all female team, the first in GKC history, two first place event ribbons, and new and exciting training never before practiced by previous teams. Hopefully, this tradition of firsts will continue into next year's competition.

Commanders Corner

CDT Casey Voss

Being the Fox Valley Battalion Commander for the 2008-2009 school year is a privilege and honor I have truly enjoyed. This is the first year that the Fox Valley Battalion has become a Cadet owned program. With the coaching and mentoring that the Cadre provides us, it is the first year that the seniors have been solely responsible for the planning and execution of the all of the Battalion events. The Organization Day, Field Training Exercise, and the Battalion Dining-In have provided very good training opportunities for the Cadets that is difficult to get in other college courses. The Cadets learned teamwork, personal courage, and sacrifice, as well as how to deliver a blow with the pugil stick. These skills have put those Cadets miles ahead of their average college peers. I am confident that every one of them will be successful in whatever future plans they hope to achieve.

I am sure most of my peers would agree that these training events were not intended to be easy. The demands of the underclassmen have been greater than they have ever been before. We have asked Cadets to rappel off of a forty foot tower within two weeks of being in ROTC. Two weeks later we would ask those same Cadets to spend two nights out in the woods with poncho shelters in 30 degree weather at Ft. McCoy. These are only a few of the challenging tasks we have asked the Cadets of the Fox Valley Battalion to do, but every Cadet accomplished those tasks with a smile on their face. I believe it is safe to say that the cadets in the Fox Valley Battalion this fall have been some of the most selfless, motivated Cadets, Fox Valley Battalion has ever seen. The camaraderie and team work that I have seen are at unprecedented levels. I hope that all of the Cadets this semester will be back in spring and will keep up the high level of performance. I wish you all a safe and happy Holiday Season, and God Bless.



FTX

By: Cadet Micah Swanson

The Fox Valley Battalion Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) is the Fall highlight event for Cadets of the ROTC program. For the majority of the Freshman and Sophomore Cadets (MSI and MSII class) it is often their first experience with a significant Army training environment outside of the academic environment. The Junior Cadets (MSIII class) are continuing to further prepare themselves for the summer Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) based in Fort Lewis, WA which is the major event for an Army ROTC cadet. The entire event is planned and executed by the cadet Battalion Staff and Company Commanders, entirely comprised of senior cadets (MSIV class). For the seniors this is one of the first major training events that they will conduct and will be their first chance to establish themselves in front of the entire battalion as the leaders of the Fox Valley ROTC Battalion.

The training was held at Fort McCoy Military Installation near Tomah WI during the first weekend of October. Cadets from Red Hawk Company, Green Knight Company, and Titan Company converged on Fort McCoy from their respective location on Friday 03OCT08 to begin the first phase of the event, Day and Night Land Navigation. A select number of Cadets, mostly MSIs and IIs, were provided with the tremendous opportunity to ride in UH-60 BlackHawk Helicopters from Landing Zone (LZ) Oshkosh, located at J.J. Keller Field to Fort McCoy. It was a new experience for most Cadets and even those who had flown aboard a UH-60 previously stated that the ride was both exhilarating and thrilling. As you can imagine, the UH-60 is certainly not the "Best Care in the Air," but it was definitely a life-time experience for those involved.

Phase two, Saturday 04OCT08, began with the Fox Valley Battalion running through both the Confidence and Conditioning Course. Imagine one of the largest collections of jungle gyms all assembled in a grueling course set throughout the wooded Fort McCoy land-

scape. Cadets tested their personal courage as they scaled the numerous Confidence Course obstacles while working as a team to conquer the course in the fastest time possible. In the afternoon, Cadets broke into round-robin training cycles to complete a demanding Bayonet Assault Course instructed by MSIVs from Green Knight Company. Then they competed in a pugil stick arena instructed by MSIVs from Red Hawk Company. Then they learned about the Dakota Fire Pit instructed by MSIVs from Titan Company. Saturday night concluded with the highly successful Chicken Preparation, instructed by Senior Military Instructor Sergeant First Class Barone. Cadets then provided their own dinner as they took part in a growing Fall FTX tradition.



Phase three, Sunday 05OCT08, marked the final day of the Fall FTX. The Fox Valley Battalion conducted the Aid & Litter Assault Course, a strenuous test of physical endurance, teamwork, and leadership. The training provided the MSIIIs with an opportunity to lead their fellow Cadets through a simulated training exercise, which they will be required to do extensively at LDAC. It was an excellent initial squad level leader-

ship opportunity for the MSIIIs and gave the MSIVs a chance to evaluate the individual's leadership strengths and weaknesses and impart wisdom from their past experience at LDAC.

Lieutenant Colonel Tackett, the Professor of Military Science, gave closing remarks. He reminded the Cadets of the importance of their training during the weekend and the importance of their decision to serve the nation as leaders in the world's greatest Army, defending the greatest nation on earth. LTC Tackett went on to say that we are a part of a team and we are also part of a family that takes care of each other, and that we accomplish the mission, regardless of the challenges. LTC Tackett concluded by telling the cadets that we are proud of all of you.



The APFT...

The Army Physical Fitness Test consists of push-ups, sit-ups, and a 2-mile run. The first two events a cadet is given 2 minutes to complete as many repetitions as they can. A perfect score requires a cadet to get a minimum of 72 push-ups, 78 sit-ups, and under 13 minutes in the 2-mile run!

