



start something **big**

The Fighting Eagle Battalion NEWSLETTER

FALL 2007



BC's Corner

by CDT Elizabeth Campbell

I would like to welcome all new and returning Cadets back to the Fighting Eagle Battalion for the start of another exhilarating year! Several of us sacrificed a few weeks of summer to attend training such as Airborne, Air Assault, CTLT, and the Leadership Camps. The MS IV class attended Warrior Forge 2007 and has come back this year with new insights and ideas to assist in the training of the Battalion. This quarter we have many exciting and challenging events that will culminate at our Fall FTX. Our Battalion will focus on a range of skills that are vital to the development of strong leaders. Land Navigation and Map Reading, Drill and Ceremony, Operations Orders, and Physical Training are a few examples of the “hooah, hooah” army training that the



Fighting Eagles will become proficient at. This school year is going to be a challenging adventure that will carry us forward in our efforts to become leaders in the United States Army. Fall Quarter 2007 has started us all off strong... “EAGLE STRONG”



Visit our EWU ROTC website at:
www.ewu.edu/rotc



Airborne School, Class 42-07

by CDT Stan Stadelman

My name is Stan Stadelman and I am in my third year in the EWU ROTC Program. Over the summer, I was given the opportunity to attend Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA. Airborne School is a three week course broken down into three separate parts, all designed to prepare us to make five qualifying jumps. The first week is Ground Week. We learned the proper techniques for landing after falling 1,250 feet from a C-130. The second week: Tower Week. We jumped out of 34-foot towers while connected to zip lines to practice proper exiting of the aircraft. The fact that the towers are 34 feet tall and not 35 or 33 is no mistake. It is proven that

if you have the guts to jump off of a 34 foot tower you have the guts to jump out of a moving plane. After mastering the techniques taught to us during the first two weeks we moved on to the third and final week, the one all of us had come down to Georgia for: Jump Week. During Jump Week we proceeded to jump out of five perfectly good airplanes. It all seems like a blur to me now. I still can't believe that I actually jumped out of a moving airplane that was flying 1,250 feet above the earth! When I got back from Airborne School with my wings pinned on my chest, people asked me why on earth would you volunteer to do something like that? Why would you purposely get in to a plane that's sole purpose is to dump all of its passengers out

the back? My answer to them is this: How many people have jumped out of a flying plane? How many people have floated down to the earth from 1,250 feet up in the air? Airborne School was an experience unlike any other. Nothing can describe the feeling of floating down to earth, or the feeling of seeing your chute open up for the first time. It is the greatest feeling in the world and I am a better person because of it.



Pictured: CDT Jason Lorenson also attended Airborne School.

2007 Ranger Challenge at Corvallis, OR

by CDT Blaine Powers



This year EWU ROTC assembled a team of 11 Cadets, which included two alternates, to compete in Ranger Challenge 2007 held at Oregon State University. Almost 20 cadets showed up to practice during the month before the competition, making it a competitive selection process to earn the right to represent Eastern. Selected were Cadets Pat Watts, Jonathan Abshire, Jeremy Bermudez, Josh Decker, Phillip Figuerres, Veronica Neely, Aaron Peterson, Stephanie Hockett and Jason Lorenson. The team was led by captain Blair Powers.

After an eight-hour bus ride, we arrived in Monmouth, OR and started the competition before dawn the next day with a Physical Fitness test. Three Cadets scored well into the extended scale while others broke their personal PT records. Cadet Veronica Neely earned an astonishing 351 points, while Cadet Blaine Powers earned 326; both personal bests. Afterwards, the team moved on to the One Rope Bridge completing the task in less than half the time it took the year before; over 10 hours of practicing this event had paid off.

Land Navigation followed and EWU took third. Cadets Pat Watts and Blair Powers single handedly earned more points than some entire teams and when combined with the other Cadets from our team, our place was earned.

Weapons assembly and disassembly followed suit, with Cadet Lorenson owning the event for the team. A hand grenade assault course came next allowing Cadet Abshire to hone skills he had learned this past summer at Ft. Benning, GA. Cadets Peterson and Bermudez scored extremely well on the Map Reading Test. Overall, our team had a 95% average score on the test, the second highest score of that competition.

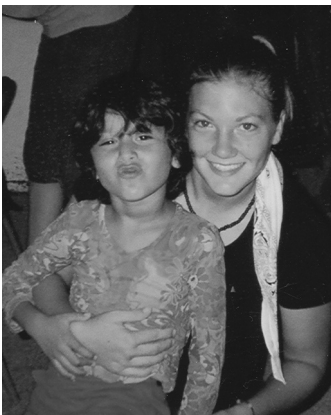
Sunday morning, while most competitors were sleeping, our team competed in a 10K Forced Road March; the determining event in Ranger Challenge. Cadet Decker traded in his camera from the day prior for a rifle and a ruck to replace Cadet Bermudez who suffered an ankle injury. Cadet Figuerres pushed through exhaustion and carried our guidon high, leading us to the finish line as one team. At the end of the day, the weeks of training and forfeited weekends had paid off. EWU placed fifth overall out of 11 teams. "Next year, first place is in our sight!"



UPCOMING EVENTS

1-2 March	Winter Qtr FTX	17-18 May	Spring Qtr FTX
28 March	Winter Qtr Commissioning	29 May	National Awards Ceremony
20 April	WSU 100K Relay Race	13 June	ROTC Commissioning
9 May	ROTC Military Ball	14 June	EWU Commencement

For more information on any of these events, please contact our department secretary at 509.359.2386 or by e-mail: ROTC@ewu.edu.



Freshman Cadet Volunteer

by CDT Katie Reid

Volunteer work is always fun, rewarding and it gives you a chance to help out your local community. This past summer, I had the privilege of doing volunteer work in Matamoros, Mexico to help out the community and experience life in Mexico. I got to do so much when I was down there. I got a chance to help out at a local orphanage and assist the children with their everyday tasks and chores. I also helped out at a local dump to assist homeless people collect garbage that they would later trade for money to buy food for their families. My crew and I did a lot of work in one neighborhood helping elderly people clean up their lawns and repair their houses. We assisted in a community church in the neighborhood and lead VBS for the little children during the day. Then held services and cooked dinner in the evenings.

This trip gave me the opportunity to see how people in different cultures live and to see my religion at work in that part of the world and in a different language. The knowledge and experience I gained while in a foreign country helped me to broaden my perspective on the world outside of suburban America.

Branch Results

BOLC III location in italics

CDT Erica Block

Active Duty
Army Nurse Corps
Ft. Sam Houston, TX

CDT Elizabeth Campbell

Active Duty
Quartermaster Corps
Ft. Lee, VA

CDT Amber Ellis

Army Reserve/Nat'l Guard
Medical Service Corps
Ft. Sam Houston, TX

CDT Levi Floeter

Active Duty
Infantry
Ft. Benning, GA

CDT Brian Johnston

Active Duty
Adjutant General's Corps
Ft. Jackson, SC

CDT James Ko

Active Duty
Air Defense Artillery
Ft. Bliss, TX

CDT Tyler Mayes

Active Duty
Field Artillery
Ft. Sill, OK

CDT Veronica Neeley

Active Duty
Military Intelligence Corps
Branch detailed
Chemical Corps
Ft. Leonard Wood, MO

CDT Bryan O'Donnell

Army Reserve/National Guard
Military Intelligence Corps
Ft. Huachuca, AZ

CDT Nicholas Potter

Active Duty
Medical Service Corps
Ft. Sam Houston, TX

CDT Erin Priest

Active Duty
Military Intelligence Corps
Ft. Huachuca, AZ

CDT Stephen Robinson

Active Duty
Military Intelligence Corps
Branch detailed Infantry
Ft. Benning, GA

CDT Richard Senkler

Active Duty
Military Intelligence Corps
Branch detailed Armor
Ft. Knox, KY

CDT Maxwell Yardley

Army Reserve
Signal Corps
Ft. Gordon, GA

Cadet Troop Leadership Training

by CDT Nicholas Potter

When MAJ VanVleck told me I was selected to participate in a program called Cadet Troop Leadership Training (CTLT) after ROTC summer camp, I had only a vague idea of the three-week program, but it sounded like fun. Cadets selected for CTLT are assigned to an active duty army unit. My orders were to report to Ft. Riley, KS, right after summer camp. From the airport at Kansas City there was a quick two-hour bus ride with 19 other Cadets. After being set up in base lodging, it was straight to work. I was to shadow LT Gorgas and LT Bohn, leaders in Fox Company of the 1-41 Infantry, for the remainder of my time at Ft. Riley. I learned a lot from those two over the next three weeks. I was able to sit in on meetings that included the Lieutenants, the Company Commander and the Battalion Commander. When not in meetings, I spent time at our motor pool with LT Bohn working on training schedules and fixing the bumper numbers on the tracked vehicles. When I was with LT Gorgas, we worked on getting enough materials to resupply our units. When I got off work some of the other Cadets and I would run over to the gym or the swimming pool to get out of the 90-degree weather. On other days the Lieutenants would take me downtown to Buffalo Wild Wings. Then, it would be an early bedtime so I could wake up for PT the next day. I found the whole program to be a wonderful experience and would recommend it to other Cadets.

The Branching Experience

by CDT Erin Priest, XO

Branching is a process that formally begins in our MSIII year and is for the most part the biggest thing that drives us to be our best. Which branch we receive is determined by where we end up on the Order of Merit list, a list of rankings compiled after LDAC. Several factors go into where we end up on that list, a good GPA is the most important factor. Other factors include PT scores and overall performance at LDAC. One of our assignments as an MSIII was to present a branch profile to the class to aid us in figuring out which branch we think would suit us best. At LDAC, a day was set aside for Branch Orientation at which we visited five branch stations of our choice to get information on what it is like as an officer in that branch. Then, in the first week of our MS IV class our final listing of preferred branching, from number one to number sixteen, was submitted, and all we had left to do was wait. After nearly two weeks beyond the date that branch results were supposed to be released, LTC Millet was sympathetic to our plight and took the time to have us all gather in the classroom for a conference call from him while he was attending a conference in Nevada. So, crammed in the room around a table with the speakerphone on and weeks of anticipation culminating in those final moments, the mysteries of our destinies within the Army were finally revealed. Congratulations to all cadets who received their branches, and good luck as your time at Eastern comes to an end!



ROTC My First Year

by CDT Joseph DeLong

There are many things that I have learned over the course of my long and so far fruitful life, all 18 years worth. Most of the knowledge that I have acquired I've gained in the past two years, thanks to the military. I enlisted at the age of 17. I've planned on coming to Eastern Washington University and participate in ROTC since the beginning of my junior year of high school. I've been through basic training and been to AIT--ROTC is the next step in my military education. There is a great group of Cadets here at Eastern. I saw the MS IV branch ceremony and it really put things in perspective for me. This program will get me where I eventually want to be, in Military Intelligence. I saw Cadets branch into Armor, Infantry, Artillery and the Nursing Corps. It was pretty cool seeing Cadets in the same program I am in being accepted into the branches of their choice. This was rather inspiring for me. These senior Cadets also serve as great mentors and examples for MS III, II, and I's. The ROTC program is also helping me keep up with my physical fitness and academic standing. I hope to have a successful four years here at Eastern and I must say that this year is off to a pretty good start.

Fall FTX

by CDT Nicholas Rose, NCOIC, Fall FTX



Fall quarter 2007 has come and gone. And, like always, at the end of each quarter, we take all of the skills learned and culminate them into the mutual misery that we all share and come to love known as Field Training Exercises (FTX). Fall FTX served as a benchmark for Cadets to build upon because it implemented basic soldiering skills and standards to the MS I's and offered a refresher for experienced Cadets on highly perishable skills that may have been lost over summer break.

On Nov. 16, the MS III's and IV's loaded up their rucks and moved out to good ole' Camp Seven Mile. After setting up our own personal luxurious "hooches" on the forest floor, we tried a new twist to the same old night land navigation. A group would head out to a check point (CP) then, from there, each Cadet would branch off to find his/her point then come back to the CP to see if they had found the correct point and to receive another point to locate.

Leadership Training Course

by CDT Nicole O'Brine

This summer I spent four weeks at Ft. Knox, KY attending the ROTC Leadership Training Course (LTC). While there, I had the opportunity to meet Cadets from all across the country and engage in training that will add to my experience in ROTC. Each week was filled with new experiences that proved to be challenging and helped us all grow as leaders.

Week one was dedicated to teaching us the basics of military life. We learned everything from proper uniform wear to basic drill and ceremony movements. Other tasks accomplished were an APFT and completing the ever so exciting "in-processing".

Week two was filled with weapons training, repelling, and combat water survival tests similar to the ones we participate in at EWU. We also began participating in leadership roles in our respective platoons, squads and teams.

Week three focused on basic land navigation and squad movement techniques and tactics. Time was also spent being mentored by 2LT's that were assigned to our squads, helping us gain very useful knowledge of what life as a new 2LT is like, and helping us with practical tips with our leadership dimensions.

Week four we participated in a comprehensive FTX, the capstone of our LTC experience. During the FTX we were required to remember and put to use all the training we had received during the past few weeks. Following the FTX we had a graduation ceremony and out-processed.

My experience at LTC left me better equipped and prepared as a ROTC Cadet. It gave me a firm foundation to build on during my time in ROTC in preparation of serving as an United States Army Officer.

Many Cadets found this to be a very useful method to conduct night land navigation for the first couple of times. I personally enjoyed it because it allowed me to refresh my dead reckoning skills without being completely lost in the middle of nowhere.

The following day the MS I's and II's showed up bright and early to participate in the weekend's activities, which consisted of land navigation, land navigation, and land navigation, with a class on field craft in between. Everyone received a healthy portion of land navigation on Saturday, completing two-day iterations and a one-night iteration.

On Sunday, Nov. 18, we participated in practical exercises in individual and squad movement techniques. This exercise proved to be a great learning experience for all Cadets. The MS I's learned the basic movements used in the army, while MS II's became more proficient in their given tasks. As for MS III's, we became familiar with the concept of tactically moving a squad of troops from point A to point B.

The weekend adventure was a success and further improved the individual soldiering skills within the battalion while improving unit cohesion and morale despite the occasional showers, cold weather, and MRE's.



Warrior Forge Summer 2007

by CDT Josie Hall

The senior Cadets of the Fighting Eagle Battalion recently returned from an intense 33-day training event held at beautiful Ft. Lewis, WA. This event, Warrior Forge, trained some 4,000 Cadets throughout 13 regiments last summer. Through the training Cadets were taught basic and advanced skills necessary to become an Officer in today's US Army. Training was broken into two main sections, garrison and field training. During garrison operations Cadets not only participated in numerous training exercises but were also assessed on their leadership skills based upon 16 leadership dimensions. The main focus of Warrior Forge is to assess Cadets by putting them in numerous leadership positions ranging from a Squad Leader, in charge of 10-12 Cadets, to the Commanding Officer of a Company, in charge of 150 – 200 Cadets. Training held in garrison operations included basic rifle marksmanship, land navigation, physical training, confidence course, water survival and proper drill and ceremony. On day 18 of training, Cadets move from the comfort of their WWII barracks to the dense vegetation of Ft. Lewis to engage in intense war games throughout a 10-day period. Throughout this period Cadets are once again put in numerous leadership positions leading their squads or platoons in a wide variety of battle drills. These drills include recon, deliberate attack/ambush, knock out a bunker, and react to contact. To add to the excitement and to better train the Cadet's decision making capabilities, variables were incorporated into the battle drills. These variables included: meetings with village leaders, dealing with the media on the battle field, and negotiating with locals for mission critical information. The purpose of this 10-day field training is to force the Cadets to grow as Leaders. Overall, it was a great experience and has prepared the MS IV's to better lead the Fighting Eagle Battalion throughout this school year.

ALUMNI UPDATES

BG Scott G. West (1976)



Served as the J4, Multinational Force Iraq from Jul 2003-Jul 2004. Had the privilege of serving there with COL Mike McCaffree who was, at the time, the Deputy Cdr for the 81st Mech Infantry Brigade. Also served at Camp Victory in Baghdad with MAJ (R) Chris Little. Photo was taken in Fall '03. (Photo left to right: C. Little, S. West)

MAJ (R) Christopher W. Little, FA (1985)

OIF, May 2003-Jan 2004 1st Armored Division. Pictured during summer 2003 at Camp Victory, near the Al Faw Palace

COL (R) Albert J. Watson (1981)

Retired from Army Reserves Sep 2005. Retired from Manufacturers Sales Representative position in 31 Dec 2007. Currently resides in Vancouver, WA.

COL George A. Abbott (1981)

Deployed to Iraq as a member of the 81st Brigade, WA Army National Guard, 2004-5. He is currently an Armor Officer.

COL Earl D. Noble (1985)



As LTC, was assigned as Product Manager for Defense-Wide Transmission Systems. Nov 2003-Jul 2005 was responsible for communications projects in Afghanistan and Iraq and travelled extensively throughout both countries. Currently director of the Future Combat System Dept of the Army coordinating office in the Pentagon. July 2008 will assume command as Project Manager for AKO. Photo: 2005 03 24 at Kabul Airport

CPT John C. Pettibone (1986)

His guard unit was activated for Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-91. Was active duty for six months with the 48th Infantry Brigade (Mech). Spent the war at the National Training Center and still holds the record for the longest NTC rotation. Also stationed at Ft. Stewart, GA.

LTC David T. Knight, MI, USAF (1988)



Has 19 years of service both active and reserve. In 2000, transferred to the Air Force ("don't hold it against me"). Currently assigned as Commander of the 141st Security Forces Squadron (ANG) at Fairchild AFB, WA. Has deployed 12 times to a variety of locations during the past 6 years. His unit has been responsible for transporting prisoners to and from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, mostly out of Afghanistan. Just returned from most recent deployment (pictured), which was to Incirlik AB Turkey and Balad Iraq. Recently picked up for LTC, and should pin sometime during the next couple of months.

CPT (R) Melvin Jack Rothrock (1988)

A Viet Nam vet who was drafted into the Army in 1970. His MOS was 98C (Intel traffic analyst). Spent most of his time attached to 1st Cav as an 81 mm mortar gunner. Later attended OCS and was commissioned at Ft. Benning, GA as Intel Officer specializing in Electronic Warfare. Graduated from EWU with a MS degree on a 2-year Army Grad School Scholarship.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?
Send us an e-mail at: ROTC@ewu.edu

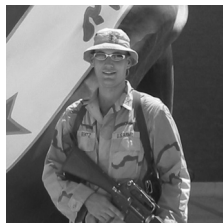
James M. Watanabe (1988)

Served in WA Army National Guard until 1994. Went active duty, 1st CD, Ft. Hood, TX as Chaplain. Left Army service in 1995. Currently, Chaplain for the Federal Bureau of Prisons at FCC Beaumont, TX

MAJ Tyrone C Abero, SC (1992)

OIF 1 - Currently OIF V, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, Balad/LSA Anaconda Iraq

CPT Kevin Bentz, AG (2001)



Deployed MAY 2003 to JUL 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as an Air Defense Officer. Deployed as a platoon leader then became the Battery Executive Officer two months into deployment. Served 12 months in Baghdad and an additional three months in Al Kut. Was branch transferred into AG and is stationed at Ft. Riley, KS. He is the S1 for the 125th Brigade Support Battalion, 3 Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

Photo: In front of the martyrs monument in downtown Baghdad.

CPT Thomas A. Gromus (2003)

Jun 03-Mar 04, IOBC, Fort Benning, GA; Mar 04-May 04, IN PL, FSC XO, FSC Company Commander Ft. Hood, TX, deployed to Iraq, Nov 06-Nov. 07; May 07-Nov 07, Ft. Lee, VA, Combined Logistics Captains Career Course; Nov 07-Present, Ft. Riley, TDY for MiTT Training; Feb 08, will deploy to Iraq on a Battalion MiTT for one year, assigned as S4/Log Trainer Advisor.

CPT Joseph Marshall (2004)

Currently 1BCT, 41D, III Corps, Ft. Hood, TX



1LT Sean Force, IN (2005)

2-2 SCR, currently in Baghdad.

2LT William J. Fehrenbach, EN (2006)



On Patrol in Iraq

2LT Nicholas Charlton, SC (2007)

BOLC III at Ft. Gordon, GA. First duty station at Ft. Hood TX, 3rd Signal Brigade.



Football Season 2007

Left to right:

CDT Blair Powers, CDT Phillip Figurres, CDT Jarod Cutchin, LTC M. David Millet, ROTC PMS, CDT Robb Loeb, Jim Valentine, Cheney VFW, CDT Tabor Heine, CDT Patrick Watts, CDT Elizabeth Campbell, CDT Chris MacGeorge, CDT Jason Lorenson, CDT Jeremy Bermudez, and CDT Blaine Powers.

Note From the PMS

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

This is our third EWU ROTC newsletter and if you missed the first two they are posted on our website. Many of you will receive this edition of the newsletter via e-mail as we try to limit our cost of publishing and mailing out hundreds of copies. The previous newsletters have reached hundreds of Alumni and parents and have expanded our alumni contact list two-fold. In that regard, Cadet Command is working on a webpage called "ROTC Alumni Link," similar to the West Point Alumni site, that will enable us to better connect to our past, present and future Fighting Eagle associates – stay tuned for further updates.

I am proud of all the accomplishments of our Cadets over the Summer and Fall months. The MSIII Cadets we sent to Ft. Lewis, WA for Warrior Forge 07, performed in an outstanding manner – achieving or exceeding the Cadet Command averages in all graded events. Two of our Cadets (Josi Hall and Brian Johnston) received the highest overall evaluations possible and Cadet Chris MacGeorge received the prestigious RECONDO Badge. These Cadets are now the senior leaders of the Cadet Battalion and quickly taken on the mantle of leadership by developing and implementing a solid training plan to start off the new academic year.

The Fighting Eagle Battalion continues to grow with over 70 Cadets currently in the program and, we project to commission 16 new Second Lieutenants this academic year, which would be the highest number in many years. This is due to all the hard work of the Cadets and Cadre who continue to recruit, retain and train the quality young men and women who are willing to serve their Country. Because of the expanding Army and need for more Officers, our Command has tasked Eastern to produce even more Officers starting in 2010 – I know we are up to the challenge and appreciate your support and the complete support of the entire Eastern Washington University staff and administration, and the community of Cheney.

Please continue to spread the good word of our future Leaders and please share your alumni information with us – we enjoy seeing and sharing current photos of what our EWU ROTC alumni are up to today.

Warrior Forge Summer 2007

Pictured at right are some of the EWU ROTC participants at Warrior Forge 2007, held at Ft. Lewis, WA.

Left to right:

CDT Tyler Mayes, Cheney WA; CDT James Ko, Mukilteo, WA; CDT Brian Johnston, Kennewick, WA; MAJ Kraig VanVleck, EWU ROTC APMS, CDT Richard Senkler, Hartline, WA; and CDT James Appel, Colfax, WA

